



Use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To establish a procedure for the use, maintenance, storage and refilling of all self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Department.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1. This procedure will be followed by all members of the Department and will be supervised by the Safety Officer. Any deviation of this procedure will require prior notification of the Safety Officer.

3.0 Breathing Apparatus Assignments

- 3.1. All Department vehicles are equipped with a minimum of (1) 4500 psi Scott NxG2 self-contained breathing apparatus. Each SCBA is labeled as to the apparatus it is assigned to. Every attempt should be made to keep the correct SCBA with the correct apparatus.
- 3.2. Each firefighter has been issued a face-piece that is to be utilized with the Scott NxG2 4500 psi breathing apparatus. It is the responsibility of the individual to keep this mask in good working order. Any repairs that are needed should be directed to the Safety Officer.
- 3.3. Breathing Apparatus will be used by any firefighter that enters a potentially hazardous/contaminated environment to perform fire suppression/rescue or hazardous materials abatement activity or in any potentially oxygen deficient environment. This includes any environment outdoors, indoors or in a confined space.

4.0 Maintenance of All Breathing Apparatus

- 4.1. All breathing cylinders should be kept as full as possible at all times. A minimum of 4000 psi should be kept in every cylinder to be considered full, and ready for service.
- 4.2. Harness straps shall be kept in the fully open position while stored on the apparatus.



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- 4.3. All face-piece mounted regulators shall be kept either attached to the belt clip holder for the unit or to the face piece itself. This will keep dirt from getting into the regulator while it is not being used.
- 4.4. After each use, each unit shall be fully checked, washed if needed, sanitized with soap and water and dried properly.
- 4.5. If a unit is down for repair, notify the most senior officer present immediately and remove from the apparatus. Any unit taken out of service for repair shall have notice attached to it explaining the problem, date and name of the firefighter reporting the problem.
- 4.6. Each member of the Department has been individually issued an Scott face piece as part of your protective clothing. The member will be responsible for the following maintenance of the face piece.
 - 4.6.1. Check that their face piece is functioning properly and is in safe condition.
 - 4.6.2. Place their face piece with their turnout gear for use each day.
 - 4.6.3. Keep the face piece in a sanitary and clean condition.
 - 4.6.4. Report any problems to the Safety Officer.
- 4.7. Weekly inspections are performed to assure compliance to the guideline. In addition to the above, each air bottles are inspected for hydrostatic service dates.

5.0 Use of Refilling Station - Cascade

- 5.1. The Department has a cascade system on Special Operations Unit 1651. This unit is designed for the filling of fire department breathing cylinders.
- 5.2. The filling of private SCUBA or other types of cylinders with this unit is not allowed. Permission must be received from the Chief Officers to use the refilling station for any other reason than to fill Fire Department cylinders. This does not include cylinders from other Fire Departments or from other City Departments.



6.0 Operational Procedure

- 6.1. The four-bank 6000 psi cascade system is designed to refill the smaller pack cylinders (2) at a time.
- 6.2. You must always verify each cylinder to be filled for the following information before filling is to take place.
 - 6.2.1. What is the maximum amount the cylinder will hold.
 - 6.2.2. Is the cylinder within its test date.
- 6.3. The cylinders shall always be placed in the fragmentation collars behind the gauge panel each time they are filled.
- 6.4. Once cylinders are filled, caution should be used in removing the fill hoses from the cylinders. Hi-pressure air is filling the line and bleeding the line rapidly can cause eye or hearing injury if protection is not used
- 6.5. After use, all filler lines are to be bled down and stored at the proper locations. If any cascade bottle is below it's minimum pressure, then the cascade system must be refilled to the maximum level 6000psi.
- 6.6. Use the compressor at the station to fill the Cascade System. An approved second (offsite) source is the Clinton Fire Department on Wall Street.
- 6.7. For Compressor operation, see a separate Standard Operating Guideline.
- 6.8. Any questions concerning the operation of the fill station should be directed to the Assistant Chief.