
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
Revised: 7-1-09
Effective: 10-20-09
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)
Section: 403.00

403.01 Purpose

Provide proper respiratory protection to members through the utilization of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

403.02 Policy

- A. It is the policy of the Ocean City Fire Department that all personnel expected or likely to respond to, and function in, areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with, and trained in, the proper use and maintenance of the self-contained breathing apparatus.
- B. Members shall utilize only SCBA, which are of the approved, positive pressure type.
- C. Only pure, compressed air shall be used to fill the air cylinders of the Ocean City Fire Department SCBA's. Said cylinders shall be filled and maintained in accordance with Ocean City Fire Department policy.
- D. SCBA air cylinders shall be pressurized between 4000 and 4500 psi.
- E. Fire Department SCBA shall be inspected daily and shall be briefly operated on a weekly basis by shift personnel.
- F. SCBAs or their component parts, which are observed to be worn, defective, or damaged, shall be removed from service immediately and a suitable replacement SCBA or part shall be provided.
- G. SCBAs and their spare air cylinders shall be properly secured to apparatus and vehicles in such a manner as to be readily available for quick operations, yet shall be well secured enough to prevent injuries to personnel or accidental damage to apparatus and/or equipment.
- H. Each SCBA approved member shall be fitted with their own SCBA face piece.

Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

403.03 Responsibility

- A. The Fire Chief has the overall responsibility for providing a proper respiratory protection system and overall management of the respiratory protection system.
- B. Officers are responsible for insuring that the policy for the use and maintenance of SCBAs is followed by members under their supervision at emergency incidents and in training.
- C. All members are directly responsible for their safety and shall utilize and maintain self-contained breathing apparatus in accordance with this policy.
- D. Each member shall be responsible for their individual facepiece.

403.04 Identification And Location of SCBA

- A. All SCBA will be color coded for identification.
- B. Each SCBA is assigned an identification number displayed on the harness, bottle and regulator body.

403.05 Check And Maintenance

- A. All in service SCBAs shall be checked daily
- B. In service SCBAs shall be briefly operated weekly.
 - 1. Make visual inspection of SCBA.
 - 2. Hook up mask and regulator.
 - 3. Place unit into service for a brief period of time and observe operation.
 - 4. Activate PASS alarm.

403.06 Cleaning And Returning To Service

- A. SCBA shall be cleaned and the face mask shall be disinfected after each use, except when impractical under tactical conditions.
 - 1. The facepiece assembly shall be washed with mild soap and water and thoroughly rinsed with clean warm water and dried with clean wiping cloths or disposable towels. Facepieces should be stored in such a manner that remaining moisture can drain from the flexible tube and never stored in a box while still wet.
 - 2. After washing, masks will be disinfected with cleaner/sanitizer solution.
 - 3. Alcohol should not be used as a disinfecting agent. Rubber Parts should not be force dried with heat.
- B. The air cylinder should be properly charged or replaced when returning an SCBA to service.

403.07 Repairs

A replacement SCBA will be provided whenever a SCBA is removed

Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

from service for repair. The unit replaced must be tagged with the reason it is out of service.

403.08 Training

- A. Training will be scheduled on the use and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus.
- B. Training and drills in the use of SCBAs shall be provided which simulate as near actual emergency conditions as possible.

403.09 Operations

- A. Self-contained breathing apparatus shall be worn and used by all qualified Members when:
 - 1. Entering confined spaces that are oxygen deficient, or where smoke, chemicals, toxic agents, toxic fumes or unknown type of gases or vapors are present.
 - 2. At the scene of emergency incidents where personnel may be exposed to toxic vapors, gases, fumes, mist or dust caused by fires, explosions, leaks, spills or other means.
 - 3. Any possible or anticipated IDLH atmosphere as determined by the nature of the call or by presence on the scene.
- B. Do not prematurely remove breathing apparatus during routine fire situations until instructed. Carbon monoxide levels increase during overhaul, due to the incomplete combustion of smoldering materials.
- C. When using SCBA with a thirty (30) minute rating, a good rule of thumb is to expect no more than one (1) minute for every 100 psi as indicated on the cylinder gage.
- D. When working in breathing apparatus, work in pairs.
- E. Never remove the face mask or regulator to talk when in hazardous atmosphere.
- F. When utilizing a life-line and rescue knot with a SCBA, secure the life line using the rescue knot to the member first, then don the SCBA.
- G. When activating the SCBA for breathing, the PASS must be turned on, if not of the integrated type.
- H. SCBAs in storage will have the furnished rubber outlet port cover in place to prevent contaminants from entering the regulator.
- I. The Incident Commander will ensure that a rapid intervention team (RIT) will be established when members are operating in an IDLH atmosphere. The team shall consist of at least two SCBA qualified personnel.
- J. The RIT shall be in full protective clothing with SCBA on and ready to operate. The team will also have a RIT bag.