



<b>Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Administrative Policy</b>	
Subject:	SCBA
Reference Number:	FIRE 02-009
Effective Date:	25-Jan-05
Last Revision Date:	3-Mar-21
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this SOG is to create a uniform procedure on the use, maintenance and storage of SCBA on apparatus.

**Definitions:**

IDLH - Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health

Incipient Fire - A fire in the initial or beginning stages which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers.

CO - Carbon Monoxide

Harmful exposure - Exposure to dust, fumes, mists, vapors, or gasses in excess of OSHA's permissible exposure limits, or of such a nature by inhalation to have a probability of resulting in injury, illness, disease, impairment or loss of function. Harmful exposure conditions usually occur after flames have been extinguished. Light smoke/steam may or may not be present. Work continues around recently burnt materials that can continue to generate hazardous gasses and micro-particles that are not visible. Harmful exposure conditions are considered a "warm" work environment.

Hydrogen Cyanide - Hydrogen Cyanide

Particulate Exposure Only – No flames, smoke, steam or recently burnt material with potential for elevated temperature are present. Work involves activities such as water removal, cleanup in an area that has not been damaged by fire or inspection of a fire ground at a later date. Exposure is limited to visible particulates inside or outside the fire building. Particulate exposure only conditions are considered a "cold" work environment.

SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

**Policy:**

1. SCBA shall be utilized by any personnel when operating in any environment where the atmosphere is potentially or immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH). This condition should be assumed for:

- A. Interior operations at all structure fires, wherever a fire has advanced beyond the incipient phase.
  - B. Any interior or exterior firefighting operations where personnel may be expected to or encounter significant amounts of smoke or toxic gasses.
2. Personnel operating in an IDLH atmosphere utilizing SCBA shall work in teams of two or more (2+). Personnel must also maintain voice or visual contact with each other at all times. Incident Command must be updated regarding your location and PAR at appropriate intervals.
3. During overhaul or salvage operations, atmospheric monitoring should be utilized to establish that a safe atmosphere exists prior to discontinuing the use of SCBA. Any of the following conditions in the working area require continued use of SCBA:
  - A. CO levels of 35ppm or greater
  - B. Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) levels of 19.5% or less
  - C. HCN levels of 4.5 ppm or greater
  - C. Continued presence of flames, steam, smoke or recently burnt materials
  - D. Activation of a CO or hydrogen sulfide detector, (such as the cart area at the Devils Knob Golf clubhouse).
4. The minimum respiratory requirement for particulate exposure (cold) is a N95 respirator.

SCBA's shall be stored on fire apparatus in their designated area with the bottle valve off.

SCBA's and pass devices will be checked according to the daily checklist. Whenever fire apparatus is to be inspected, all SCBA/Pass devices shall be inspected as well. Pressures will be written on the daily checklist and any that are below 4,000 psi will be topped off. Any that are having a problem will be taken out of service, red tag placed on pack and/or bottle, and a Trouble Ticket completed.

When operating at a structure fire while using Tanker 62 the firefighter should pull an extra bottle or two in case the unit is actively shuttling water.