



Burlington Fire Department



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Section: 03 - Safety	
SOG Number: 03.05	Effective Date: 07.27.2020
Subject: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	
By Order of Fire Chief Steven A. Locke	

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our firefighters by avoiding any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic byproducts, or other hazardous contaminants; and to provide a means of locating firefighters in distress who are unable to request assistance.

It is the policy of the Burlington Fire Department that all personnel who may encounter a hazardous respiratory environment will be equipped with Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Furthermore, all firefighters will be trained in its use.

II. Scope:

This guideline applies to all officers and firefighters of the Burlington Fire Department. All personnel will adhere to this guideline when operating in known or potentially IDLH environments as outlined in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156 or 29 CFR 1910.120.

III. Definitions:

IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health): An atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health

effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

SCBA: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

IV. Guidelines:

A). Use

1. Each member of the Department will be accountable for their SCBA prior to its use. The unit will be inspected for correct operation and condition during the following:
 - a. Beginning over each shift
 - b. When working a mutual exchange
 - c. After each use
 - d. Whenever a replacement SCBA is issued
 - e. Or any other time necessary to ensure that the equipment is serviceable.
2. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus will be used by all personnel operating:
 - a. In a contaminated atmosphere
 - b. In an atmosphere which may suddenly be contaminated
 - c. In an atmosphere which is, or may be, oxygen deficient or contaminated.
3. This includes all personnel operating:
 - a. In an active fire area
 - b. Directly above an active fire area (i.e. rooftops ahead of vertical ventilation)
 - c. In a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks or significant fuel spills.
 - d. Where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including all vehicle and dumpster fires.
 - e. Where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e. carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide).
 - f. Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning.
 - g. In any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety
4. Premature removal of SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increase quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic byproducts.
5. In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBA may be made by the company officer or Division Supervisor based upon an evaluation of the current conditions. This may include testing for contaminants with multi-gas meters.

6. If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBA use will be maintained until the atmosphere is determined to be safe by testing or the member exits the environment.
7. SCBA use will be required in all situations where particularly toxic materials may be involved.

B). Evaluation and Training

1. All members will demonstrate annually the ability to proficiently don and operate the SCBA in accordance with NFPA 1001.

C). Maintenance

1. If an SCBA unit is found to be malfunctioning, the unit shall be taken out of service immediately and tagged.
2. The Out of Service Tag will document the following:
 - a. Unit is “Out of Service” – Reason it was removed from service
 - b. Problem found
 - c. Date
 - d. Disposition of repair.
 - e. Member completing the tag
3. All repairs or maintenance beyond routine inspection and cleaning shall be the responsibility of trained Department SCBA Technicians.

V. Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of all members to read, understand and follow this Standard Operating Guideline

Revision History			
Revision Date	Section	Summary	Principal Author
A	TBD	TBD	