

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 3005

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department to establish and maintain a respiratory program (SCBA).

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: December 19, 2004

Date S.O.G. Revised: April 20, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G.: October 19, 2004

Page 1 of 3

GUIDELINE

1:00 Purpose:

1:01 To promote and enhance Firefighter safety when exposed to dust, mist, fumes, gas, vapour and smoke.

2:00 Procedures:

- 2:01 A respirator (SCBA) shall be worn when any of the following conditions exist:
- When an unknown atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous (eg. CO investigation)
 - When the atmosphere is known to be hazardous (eg. Structure fires, overhaul, etc..)
 - When the atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous (eg. Wind direction changes)
 - When firefighters are working below ground level or inside a confined space (unless the safety of the atmosphere can be established by testing and continuous monitoring.
- 2:02 A Belleville Fire Department “Air Pack Operation Report” must be completed by each firefighter after using an SCBA from the above hazardous conditions. This report is to be given to the Officer in Charge and recorded for future reference.
- 2:03 Face piece fit testing of firefighters to ensure an effective mask seal will be conducted initially, and annually thereafter during the firefighters career to ensure proper fit. Firefighters shall only wear the size of mask that they are fit test to annually.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

2:04 All firefighters will perform a daily inspection of their SCBA at the start of each shift. This inspection will include the following:

- Cylinder is full
- All gauges work. The cylinder gauge and the remote gauge should read within 100 psi (700kPa) of each other. Gauges not marked in increments of 100 psi (700kPa) should read relatively close.
- Low-pressure alarm is in working condition. The alarm should sound briefly when the cylinder is turned on and again as the pressure is relieved.
- All hose connections are tight and free of leaks.
- Face piece is clean and in good condition.
- Harness system is in good condition and straps are in the fully extended position.
- All valves are operational. After checking the bypass valve, make sure that it is fully closed.
- Check all other items attached to SCBA (e.g. PASS alarm)

Any defective or nonfunctioning respirators/equipment shall be appropriately tagged and removed from service. The Officer in Charge is to be notified of the problem. The Officer in Charge will contact the Deputy to have the problem resolved and corrected. Any respirator/equipment sent to a qualified repair agency and returned shall be accompanied by the inspection/repair report. This report shall include a “PASS” or “FAIL” notification on each returned piece of equipment. A copy of this report shall be forwarded to the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

2:05 **After Use Cleaning and Sanitizing:** Firefighters should clean and sanitize all components of the SCBA as per section 137 of Regulation 851 (protective clothing or other safety devices that have been worn next to the skin shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to being worn by another worker) and the manufacturers specifications. After the respirator (SCBA) has been cleaned and sanitized it should be visually inspected for any problems, malfunctions or broken parts. If any of these are discovered then the SCBA shall be removed from service for repair.

2:06 **Annual Inspection:** Annual inspections should include removing the SCBA’s from service. The SCBA shall be tested and repaired by a certified technician in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Any respirator/equipment sent out for an Annual Inspection to a qualified agency and returned shall be accompanied by the inspection/repair report. This report shall include a “PASS” or “FAIL” notification on each returned piece of equipment. A copy of this report shall be forwarded to the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

3:00 **Scope:**

3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.

3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.