

MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 105.05 **VOLUME:** I

SUBJECT: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

SIGNED: ROBERT W. EZEKIEL, FIRE CHIEF 7/11/2000
DATE

It is the policy of the Mountain Brook Fire Department that all personnel expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination shall be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.

Personnel shall achieve a non-leaking facepiece to skin seal with the mask. Facial hair shall not be allowed at points where the SCBA facepiece is designed to seal with the face. Individual members shall be accountable for compliance with this requirement.

Company officers/acting officers shall assure that each SCBA is checked at the beginning of each shift, after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition. Each member shall be accountable for their assigned personal facepiece when issued.

If a SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, reported and replaced immediately.

The intent of the SCBA policy is to avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, super heated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants.

The use of breathing apparatus means that all personnel shall have facepieces in place, breathing air from the supply provided.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be used by all personnel operating:

- ▶ in a contaminated atmosphere
- ▶ in an atmosphere which may suddenly become contaminated
- ▶ in an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient
- ▶ in an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient

This includes all personnel operating:

- ▶ in an active fire area
- ▶ directly above an active fire area
- ▶ in a potential explosion of fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills
- ▶ Where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (Carbon Monoxide during overhaul)

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- ▶ where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning
- ▶ in any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety.

In addition to the above, SCBA shall be worn by all personnel operating at fire incidents above ground, below ground or in any other area which is not, but which may become contaminated by products of combustion or other hazardous substances. In these circumstances only, the SCBA may be worn with the facepiece removed. The wearing of SCBA in these situations provides that it will immediately be available for use should conditions change or if personnel are to enter an area where the use of SCBA is required.

Premature removal of SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases, SCBA must be used or the atmosphere changed.

In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBA shall be made by company officers with the approval of the Shift Commander, based on an evaluation of atmospheric conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and when necessary continuous ventilation provided.

The department Safety Officer shall conduct a proficiency evaluation of all members expected to don SCBA on an annual basis. Each member shall be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency and compatibility with the SCBA under conditions which simulate those expected as a job requirement. A facepiece to skin seal shall also be demonstrated.