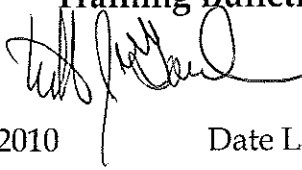


Washington Township Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Division 300: Occupational Safety & Health
Section 308: Protective Clothing & Equipment
Subject 308.04: SCBA Care & Inspection
Supersedes: Maintenance Bulletin 86-3
Training Bulletin 95-01-04



Approved By: 

Date: July 8, 2010

Date Last Reviewed:

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PURPOSE:

This procedure provides information needed to effectively inspect and care for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

RESPONSIBILITY:

To protect their health, safety, and well-being, it is essential that members properly inspect and care for SCBA according to the manufacturer's recommendations and this procedure. Further, all members must become familiar with and use the provisions of this policy, and refresh themselves as necessary to maintain their effectiveness.

PROCEDURES:

Members are to provide routine care for SCBA, and their components, following their use, or as necessary to maintain SCBA in a clean and "ready for use" condition.

Routine SCBA Care

- Clean and disinfect the facepiece frequently.
 - Use mild detergent soap and water for heavily soiled areas.
 - Carefully clean the entire assembly with the manufacturer recommended cleaner.¹
 - Clean and flush the exhalation valve.
 - Dry the entire assembly (not in high heat or direct sunlight).
- Clean the external portions of the first and second stage regulators.
 - Use caution to assure that liquids do not enter air connections or assemblies.
- Tag contaminated SCBA "out of service" (include information about the source and/or type of contamination) and potentially bag to contain the contaminants.
- Store SCBA with:
 - Cylinder valves and emergency bypass valves closed.
 - Harness straps fully extended.
 - Cylinders fully pressurized to the rated psi² (pounds per square inch).
- Maintain air pressure greater than atmospheric pressure within a cylinder. Do not leave valves open so the pressure bleeds down to zero.³

¹ Currently the product to use is Scott "Multi Wash".

² Cylinder pressure must be 90% or more of the rated capacity; 4500 psi x 90% = 4050 psi. The Frangible Disk Pressure Relief Device is designed to protect fully charged cylinders, and may not function on partially charged cylinders.

³ Cylinder valves left open or cylinder pressures at or below atmospheric may allow for contamination of the cylinder via infiltration resulting in the cylinder requiring more extensive re-charging measures.

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Inspect SCBA, and their components, following their use, or at least once each week. When fire suppression members are working in station on a daily or shift basis, inspect all SCBA at the respective fire station on a daily or shift basis.

Routine SCBA Inspection Activities

- Inspect SCBA components for:
 - Abrasions, bubbling, chemical damage, cracks, cuts, dents, deterioration, dirt, heat damage, holes, loss of elasticity, pliability, scratches, tears, wear or any other condition that harmed or rendered the component useless and affects proper operation.
- Inspect SCBA adjustments, buckles, and fasteners for proper operation, including the cylinder being secured to the back frame.
- SCBA are to be turned on to charge regulators, hoses and integrated Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) devices.
 - Listen for sounds of air leakage or unusual sounds such as chatter, clicking, rattles or whistling.
 - When the air cylinder is shut off, assure that the SCBA continues to hold pressure before bleeding off.
- Inspect SCBA pressure gauges for signs of damage and proper operation.⁴
- Inspect battery operation of PASS device, and when applicable, examine the operation of the Heads-Up Display (HUD) within an attached facepiece.⁵

Should you discover a discrepancy, malfunction or problem during the inspection or use of SCBA, remediate the issue **to the extent your training permits**. If you encounter problems or malfunctions tag the SCBA “out of service” and explain the problem. When SCBA are removed from service (including the accompanying air cylinder), immediately inform a supervisor who will take steps to replace the removed unit.

References

⁴ Cylinder pressure gauge and remote gauge should read pressures within 10% or less of one another.

⁵ When a separate battery exists for the HUD of a SCBA, inspect the HUD battery operation by attaching a facepiece.