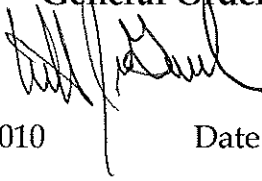


# Washington Township Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Division 300: Occupational Safety & Health  
Section 309: Personal  
Subject 309.07: Respiratory Protection Program  
Supersedes: General Order 94-2



Approved By: 

Date: July 8, 2010

Date Last Reviewed:

Page: 1 of 3

## PURPOSE:

To protect the health, safety, and well-being of members, it is essential that the Department invoke best practices to implement a comprehensive respiratory protection program. This procedure describes the Department's processes for achieving respiratory protection.

## RESPONSIBILITY:

Members must become familiar with and practice the work environment safety measures contained in this procedure. Further, members are expected to renew and re-establish their understanding of this procedure.

## PROCEDURES:

### Respiratory Protection Training

Before members enter, or potentially enter, an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment<sup>1</sup>, they are trained initially and remedially in respirator user knowledge of:

- Hazards assessment of respirator-necessary environments.
- Hazards associated with the use of respirators.
- Selection of the applicable and proper respirator protection equipment (RPE) based on hazard exposure levels, and provisions of RPE used in training (see **References**-National Fire Protection Association Standard 1404).
- Fit testing of respirators.
- Respirator inspection and care.

The performance-based training requires that members initially and annually demonstrate proficiency in the use of RPE necessary to perform their job duties and responsibilities.

### Use of RPE

The Department provides its members suitable and appropriate RPE selected based upon criteria contained in the Ohio Administrative Code and Standard 1852 of the National Fire Protection Association (see **References**).

According to the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code, 4123:1-21-02 (O) and this procedure the following take place:

1. Annually, medically certify members who may use RPE<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> These environments may include, but are not limited to air borne pathogens, smoke, noxious or toxic gases, or environments where oxygen may be present in quantities of less or more than 21%.

<sup>2</sup> This certification can be obtained by medical examination or by using the medical questionnaire as referenced in Appendix C of 1910.134.

## Subject 309.07: Respiratory Protection Program

Date: July 8, 2010

Page: 2 of 3

---

2. Members are required to use the correct<sup>3</sup> RPE in any operation where likely to enter, or potentially enter, an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment.
3. The wearer successfully passed a quantitative fit test within the previous twelve months.
4. Members must not allow conditions to exist that may interfere with the face-to-facepiece seal of RPE. These conditions include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Hair passing through the seal area.
  - b. Absence of a partial or full denture.
  - c. Eyeglass temple bars passing through the seal area.
  - d. Wearing contact lenses without previously demonstrating successful long-term use.

### **RPE Maintenance and Repair**

The Department, and its members, must maintain RPE in a safe and usable condition. Members must remove from service RPE that is not in a usable condition or may cause or contribute to user injury, illness or death. The Department will repair/re-condition RPE according to manufacturer's specifications.

### **Testing**

Initially, and annually, members are fit tested according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory Protection Standard 1910.134 (f) using the Porta Count Tester. Results of this testing are entered on Form 12-E *Respiratory Protection Inspection Form*. Members unsuccessful in completing or otherwise failing the fit test will be restricted from duty that requires entry into a known or potentially threatening IDLH. Records of fit testing are kept as delineated in Standard Operating Procedure 504.03.

The Staff Officer in charge of SCBA/Respiratory arranges quarterly breathing air quality testing. Testing must meet the requirements of at least Grade D as specified in the Compressed Gas Association Commodity Specification for Air, Pamphlet G-7.1.

### **Quality Improvement**

*Assurance of effective and safe performance of RPE.*

- Members test and care for RPE according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- At least annually, qualified members subject RPE to a breathing machine test that complies with Sections 7.5.5 and 7.5.6 of NFPA Standard 1852.
- The Staff Officer in charge of SCBA/Respiratory calibrates and maintains the breathing machine according to manufacturer's recommendations and maintains records.
- The Staff Officer in charge of SCBA/Respiratory reviews records of the inspection, care and maintenance of RPE at least annually to determine that RPE procedures are followed. (See Standard Operating Procedure 504.03.)

*Assurance that elements of RPE procedures are sustained.*

- Members will be evaluated and tested regularly in their knowledge of RPE.

---

<sup>3</sup> The correct RPE for use can vary with conditions that may include open-circuit type SCBA, full facepiece respirator or supplied air respirator.

## Subject 309.07: Respiratory Protection Program

Date: July 8, 2010

Page: 3 of 3

---

- Members will, at least annually, demonstrate proficiency in the donning, wearing, use and doffing of RPE.

### *Measure effectiveness of RPE procedures.*

- Member's correct use of RPE is evaluated and scrutinized during training and incident actions.
- Officers and assigned members regularly review RPE records and reports to discover how provisions can be amended to improve effectiveness.

### *Implement improvements in the respiratory protection program.*

- Identifies industry recognized improvements.
- Immediately implement increased RPE health and safety provisions once improvements are identified.

### **References:**

Compressed Gas Association  
Pamphlet G-7.1 - Commodity Specification for Air

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
Standard 1404 – *Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training*, 2006 edition; Chapters 4, 5 & 6  
Standard 1500 – *Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program*, 2007 edition, Chapter 7  
Standard 1852 – *Selection, Care and Maintenance of Open-Circuit SCBA*, 2008 edition

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)  
1910.134 - Respiratory Protection Standard

Ohio Administrative Code  
4123:1-21-02 (O) Personal protective clothing and equipment for structural firefighting

Scott Health & Safety Products  
Operating and Maintenance Instructions – “Air-Pak” and “Air-Pak 75”

Washington Township Fire Department  
Form 12-E *Respiratory Protection Inspection Form*  
Procedure 308.03 – *Respiratory Protection-General*  
Procedure 504.03 – *Respiratory Protection Technician Authorization & Recordkeeping*