

POINT PLEASANT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Respiratory Protection Plan

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

The Respiratory Protection Plan shall: define the procedures for selecting SCBAs by the department, provide for a medical evaluation and fit testing of the users of SCBAs, establish the procedures for the use, care, cleaning and maintenance of SCBAs, the training of members in SCBA use, establish a program to maintain breathing air quality, establish a procedure for monitoring the effectiveness of the Respiratory Protection Program and a procedure for appointing a Program Administrator and a Respiratory Protection Committee.

Scope:

The Respiratory Protection Program (Program) shall provide for the respiratory protection and safety of the members of the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department (the Department). This program shall be fully compliant with OSHA Regulation 1910.134.

Definitions:

Assistant Program Administrator - means either or both person(s) selected by the Board of Fire Officers to be the assistant(s) to the Program Administrator and who will be the responsible party at the member company that insures compliance with this Program. See section 9 for the qualifications.

Board of Fire Officers - The governing body of the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department, which is responsible for establishing and enforcing the policies and procedures under which the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department operates. The Board is comprised of all of the line officers of each company and is headed by the Chief of the Department.

FAST Team - A team of firefighters assembled at an incident for the sole purpose of rendering assistance to a firefighter in distress or rescuing a trapped firefighter. Currently a FAST Team is provided by South Wall Fire & Rescue.

Fit Test - Means the use of a protocol to either qualitatively or quantitatively evaluate the fit of a respirator of an individual.

Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) - Means an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

Interior structural firefighting - Means the physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

Line Officer means a member of the Department that holds any of the following positions: Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief or Chief.

Member means a firefighter that is on the membership rolls of either Ocean Fire Company #1 or Point Pleasant Beach Fire Company #2.

Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) (a.k.a. Department Physician) means an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e, license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all of the health care service required by this program.

Positive pressure respirator means a respirator in which the pressure inside the respirator inlet covering exceeds the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

Program Administrator means the member selected by the Board of Fire Officers to be responsible to oversee and administer the Respiratory Protection Program and perform the required duties as outlined in this Program. See Section 9 for qualifications.

Qualitative fit test (QLFT) means a pass/fail fit test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual's response to the test agent.

Quantitative fit test (QNFT) means an assessment of the adequacy of respirator fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

Safety Officer means a member of the Department that has been selected by the Chief to perform the role of Safety Officer. Said member must have completed an Incident Safety Officer course.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) means an atmospheres-supplying respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user. This is the type of respirator used by the Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department.

Tight-fitting face piece means a respiratory inlet covering that forms a complete seal with the face.

User seal check means an action conducted by the respirator user to determine if the respirator is properly seated to the face.

Section (1) - Selection of SCBAs (Respirators)

The Point Pleasant Beach Fire Department shall provide its members with appropriate respiratory protection. Whereas the Department cannot identify or reasonably estimate the member exposure, the Department shall provide respirators that are approved for use in an IDLH atmosphere.

- a. The Department shall provide its members with SCBAs (respirators) suitable for usage in an IDLH atmosphere. All SCBAs used by Department members shall be the type of a full facepiece pressure demand SCBA certified by NIOSH for a minimum service life of thirty minutes.
- b. Each member company of the Department may select its own type and manufacturer of the SCBA's to be used by its members, as long as it complies with the criteria outlined in Section (1) a.
- c. See attachment () for the current specifications for each Company's SCBAs.

Section (2) - Medical evaluation of users

The Department shall provide, at no cost to the member, a medical evaluation of the approved users of S.C.B.A.s. The initial evaluation shall consist of the user of a SCBA completing a medical questionnaire. The questionnaire shall be reviewed by the Department Physician, who, if deemed necessary, shall administer a medical examination. No member shall be considered an approved SCBA user until such time as a medical questionnaire is completed and found to be satisfactory by the Department's Physician.

- a. Completion of the questionnaire
 1. Existing approved SCBA users:
 - The medical questionnaire shall be distributed to all members approved as SCBA users and shall be completed by the member and returned to their respective Assistant Program Administrator at a date to be specified by the Respiratory Protection Committee.
 - All respondents will be furnished with an envelope that states their name.
 - The completed questionnaires will be returned sealed, in this envelope to protect the confidentiality of the member's response.
 - The Program Administrator shall then forward the completed questionnaire to the Department's Physician.
 - Each member shall be allowed to discuss the questionnaire with the Department's Physician.

2. New members to be approved as SCBA users:

- Any new member of the Department that wishes to be approved as an SCBA user must complete the medical questionnaire.
- This questionnaire shall be returned to the member's Assistant Program Administrator in a sealed envelope.
- The Program Administrator shall then forward the sealed envelope to the Department's Physician for evaluation.
- The candidate shall then be provided with the opportunity to discuss the questionnaire with the Department's Physician.

b. Supplemental information for the Department's Physician

The Physical approved by the Department shall be provided with the following information to aid them in recommending a member's ability to use an SCBA:

- The type and weight of the SCBA used by the member.
- The duration and frequency of SCBA usage
- The expected physical work effort
- The PPE and other equipment worn by the member
- The temperature and humidity extremes that may be encountered.
- See attachment () for the above information

c. The Department Physician's response

The written response from the Department's Physical shall be sent to the Program Administrator and shall provide the following information:

- Any limitations placed upon a member in usage of a SCBA.
- If the member is medically able to use an SCBA.
- A statement regarding the need, if any, for a follow-up medical examination.
- A statement that the Physician has provided the member with a copy of the Physician's recommendation.

d. Medical questionnaire - See attachment ()

e. Follow-up medical examination

1. Any member who gives a positive response to any of questions 1 thru 8 in Section 2 of the medical questionnaire or whose initial medical examination demonstrates the need for it, shall be provided a follow-up medical examination.

2. Additionally, any member that reports medical signs or symptoms that are related to the users ability to use a SCBA, or if the Department's Physician, a Line Officer or the respiratory Program Administrator indicates the need for it, a follow-up medical examination shall be provided. The cost of this examination shall be paid for by the Department.
3. If the user exhibits any signs or symptoms of medical distress while using a SCBA on the fire ground or during training, the user shall be transported to the hospital for a full medical evaluation.

Section (3) - Fit Testing

The Department shall require all members who are approved SCBA users to be subject to a fit test, using the same make, model, style and size facepiece as they would be issued to use.

- a. When fit testing is to be done.

The Department will offer Qualitative fit testing to it's members at the following times:

- Prior to a member becoming approved by the Department for SCBA use.
- Whenever a different SCBA facepiece is put into service.
- Annually, at a time to be determined in advance by the Company Captain and the Program Administrator, not to exceed 12 months from the last fit testing.
- Whenever a member reports, or a Line Officer, the Department Physician or then Program Administrator makes a visual observations of, changes in the members physical condition that could affect SCBA fit.
 - a. Such changes include, but are not limited to:
 - Facial scarring
 - Dental changes
 - Cosmetic surgery
 - Obvious change in body weight.

- b. Selection of Fit testing provider.

1. The provider of fit testing shall be selected by the Program Administrator.
2. If an outside vendor is selected, they shall provide to the Department a statement stating that the testing performed is in full compliance with OSHA Regulation 1910.134 App A.
3. This statement must be provided on an annual basis.

4. If this test is to be performed by a member of the Department, the Program Administrator shall maintain the appropriate proof of that individual's training and/or any required certifications attesting to that person's ability to perform the testing.
5. This information shall be updated as required.

Section (4) - Use of a SCBA.

a. Approved users of SCBA.

To be an approved user of an SCBA., a member must:

- Have New Jersey Firefighter 1 Certificate
- Attend the annual S.C.B.A. recertification.
- Be approved by the Department Physician for using an SCBA.
- Have been fit tested for using the SCBA.
- Have been notified by the member's Company Captain that they have been approved as a user of the S.C.B.A., both initially and yearly thereafter.

b. When to use SCBA.

Members must use SCBA anytime that they are engaged in interior structural firefighting operations, ventilation operations in conjunction with structural firefighting operations, anytime there may be exposure to injurious quantities of toxic or noxious dust, gases, vapors or fumes, when Department policies indicate such usage or when directed to do so by a Line or Safety Officer.

c. Other Personal Protective Equipment.

When using a SCBA, a member must be wearing full Personal Protective Equipment consisting of, but not limited to:

- Department issued turn-out gear (coat and bunker pants), helmet, gloves, boots, Nomex hood and PASS device.
 - The PASS device may be either on the members' turn-out gear or be attached to the SCBA.
 - The PASS device will be turned on anytime the member is involved in interior structural firefighting or ventilation operations, or is advised by a Line Officer or a Safety Officer.

d. Procedures for use of SCBA.

1. Members must follow the approved procedures established by the manufacturer when using a SCBA. See attachments () for the individual procedures concerning each type of SCBA used by the Department.
2. All members must perform a user seal check before entering a hazardous environment.

e. Face piece seal protection

No member shall be allowed to operate, with a SCBA, that has:

- Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face
- Any condition that interferes with the face-to-face piece seal or valve function
- Corrective glasses or goggles, that when worn interferes with the seal of the face piece to the face of the user.

f. Continuing SCBA effectiveness

1. The Line Officers, Safety Officers and the Program Administrator shall be responsible for maintaining appropriate surveillance for any change in work area conditions or degree of member exposure or stress that may affect the respirator's effectiveness. This is a continual process, where the effectiveness of the SCBA is continuously reevaluated.
2. The Line Officers, Safety Officer and Program Administrator shall ensure that members leave the SCBA use area:
 1. To wash their faces and SCBA facepiece as necessary to prevent eye or skin irritation associated with SCBA use
 2. If they detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in breathing resistance, or leakage of the facepiece
 3. To replace the SCBA cylinder.
3. If a member detects vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in resistance, or leakage of the facepiece, the SCBA must be tagged and placed out-of-service. A new SCBA must be issued to the member before they are allowed to return to the work area.

Section (5) - Procedures for IDLH atmospheres

The Department and/or the Commanding Officer at an incident involving an IDLH atmosphere shall ensure that:

- a. One member or, when needed, more than one member is located outside the IDLH atmosphere
- b. Visual, voice or signal line communications is maintained between the member(s) in the IDLH atmosphere and a member located outside the IDLH atmosphere.
- c. The member(s) located outside the IDLH atmosphere are trained and equipped to provide effective emergency rescue;
- d. A member or the Commanding Officer are notified before the members or another designated team located outside the IDLH atmosphere enter the IDLH atmosphere to provide emergency rescue;
- e. The Commanding Officer, once notified, provides the necessary assistance appropriate to the situation;
- f. The Department members and/or the designated FAST team located outside the IDLH atmosphere are equipped with:
 1. Pressure demand or other positive pressure SCBAs, and either;
 2. Appropriate retrieval equipment for removing the members who enter these hazardous atmospheres where retrieval equipment would contribute to the rescue of the members and would not increase the overall risk resulting from entry; or
 3. Equivalent means for rescue where retrieval equipment is not required under Section (2).

Section (6) - Procedures for interior structural firefighting

When performing interior structural firefighting operations, the Commanding Officer shall ensure that in addition to the requirements outline in Section (5), the following procedures are in place:

- a. At least two members enter the IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times
- b. At least two members are located outside the IDLH atmosphere; and
- c. All members engaged in interior structural firefighting use SCBAs.

Note 1 to Section (6) requirements: One of the two individuals located outside the

IDLH atmosphere may be assigned to an additional role, such as incident commander in charge of the emergency or safety officer, so long as this individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.

Note 2 to Section (6) requirements: Nothing in this section is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.

Section (7) - Training in the use of SCBAs

a. Training requirement for member approved in SCBA use:

1. Existing Approved SCBA users:

- Must have a New Jersey Firefighter level 1 Certificate
- Must attend the Department's annual SCBA training

2. New SCBA users:

- Must have successfully completed a Firefighter 1 class.
- Must be approved by a Department Instructor and the Company Captain.

b. Instructor Requirements

The Department's annual SCBA Training must be taught by an individual that is a New Jersey State Fire Instructor Level 1.

c. Annual training curriculum

The annual SCBA training shall be taught in such a manner that the approved SCBA user can demonstrate knowledge of at least the following:

- Why the SCBA is necessary and how improper fit, usage, or maintenance can compromise the protective effect of the SCBA;
- What the limitation and capabilities of the SCBA are;
- How to use the SCBA effectively in emergency situations, including situations in which the SCBA malfunctions;
- How to inspect, put on and remove, use and check the seals of the SCBA;
- What the procedures are for maintenance and storage of the SCBA;
- How to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of SCBA; and
- The general requirements of this section.

d. Record keeping

It shall be the responsibility of the Respiratory Protection Committee to maintain adequate records of all members approved in SCBA use. This records should included, but not be limited to, the members Firefighter 1 Certificate and proof of completion of the annual SCBA training.

e. Additional training requirements

In addition to annual retraining, training sessions shall be held in any of the following situations:

- Changes in the type of exposures experienced by the member or the type of SCBA renders previous training obsolete;
- Inadequacies in the member's knowledge or use of the SCBA indicate that the member has not retained the requisite understanding or skill;
- Any other situation arises in which retraining appears necessary to ensure safe SCBA use.

Section (8) - The Procedure for the care, cleaning and maintenance of SCBAs

The record keeping requirements state that the checklist used must include a specific identification system (i.e., a number or letter) for each pack and bottle, date of inspection, any problems and the name of the person who did the inspection. Inspections must be done monthly and after every use (fire or drill). The Respiratory protection Committee shall insure that the SCBAs are cared for, cleaned, maintained and stored in accordance to OSHA Standard 1910.134.

Section (9) - Program Administrator and Assistant Program Administrators

The Board of Fire Officers shall, at the organizational meeting of the Board of Fire Officers meeting in January, elect a Program Administrator to administer and oversee the Respiratory Protection Program and conduct the required evaluations of the program effectiveness. The person selected by the Board must have had at least five years experience as a Line Officer and has held at least the rank of Captain.

The Board shall appoint an Assistant Program Administrator for each Company. It shall be that person's responsibility to ensure the member company is in compliance with the procedures of the Respiratory Protection Program. They shall aid the Captain, Line Officers and Program Administrator in ensuring that the proper training, record keeping, maintenance and all other functions of the program are carried out. To be eligible to be an Assistant Program Administrator, a member must have at least three years experience as a New Jersey firefighter level 1.

Section (10) - Establishment of the Respiratory Protection Committee.

A committee will be established to review and monitor the Respiratory Protection Program. This Committee shall consist of the Program Administrator, the two Assistant Administrators, the Chief and one Line Officer from each company.

This Committee shall at a minimum, meet bi-monthly to review maintenance and training records. The Committee shall also at a minimum, do a physical inspection of the SCBAs, records, etc of each member company on a semi-annual basis. The committee shall be responsible for keeping a record of all inspections and any findings.

This Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of the Respiratory Protection Program and for establishing any additional procedures for compliance with this Program. The Committee shall also continually evaluate the Respiratory Protection Program, and make updates and changes to the program as required. The Committee shall report all findings, new requirements and any other important information to the Board of Fire Officers.

Section (11) - Breathing air quality and use.

The Department shall maintain an air compressor capable of refilling all SCBA air cylinders used by the Department.

- a. The Department shall provide a compressed air system that meet US Pharmacopoeia requirements for medical or breathing air.
- b. The Department shall maintain an Annual Service/Maintenance contract with a qualified service company for the air compressor. A minimum of 2 per year air tests shall be performed on the compressed air supply and it must meet the requirements for Grade D breathing air as described in ANSI/Compressed Gas Association Commodity Specification for Air.
- c. The Department shall maintain a visible certificate of testing results located near the air compressor. All service records shall also be maintained at the compressor location.
- d. The Department shall train all compressor operators to the manufacturer's standards.
- e. Compressor operators shall keep a log on each SCBA cylinder filled, including; bottle number, date, operator name and compressor start and end times. This log shall be located at the compressor.

Section (12) - Evaluating the Respiratory Protection Program.

The Respiratory Protection Committee, as outlined in Section 10, shall evaluate the program and to ensure the implementation of the Respiratory Protection Program. This committee shall take any actions necessary to insure compliance with this program, amend the Program as needed and monitor the Program's effectiveness.

Section (13) - Record keeping requirements.

The Department shall maintain records of the following, documenting it's compliance with the Respiratory Protection Policy:

- Medical Evaluations
 - Fit testing, to include:
 - i. names of members tested;
 - ii. type of fit test performed;
 - iii. specific make, model, style and size of SCBA tested;
 - iv. date of test, and;
 - v. the pass/fail results for QLFTs or the fit factor and strip chart recording or other recording of the test results for QNFTs.
- a. Fit test records shall be retained for SCBA users until the next fit test is administered.
- b. A written copy of this program shall be retained by the Department.
- c. Written materials required to be retained under this section shall be made available upon request to affected members and to the Assistant Secretary or designee for examination and copying.

Section (14) - Department Physician:

The Program Administrator and the Chief of the Department, shall select a Department Physician to perform the requirements of the Physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) as required by this program. The position of Department Physician shall be an annual appointment.