CRAZY SCBA

Reference: NFPA 1001, 5.3.1 2008 Edition

Purpose: The purpose of this skill is to ensure the firefighter familiarity with an SCBA. Regardless of the firefighters rank, each person should be overtly aware of the SCBA and its components. This skill reinforces the importance of being completely familiar with their SCBA. They will be in a blacked out situation and must inspect and fix their SCBA and properly don it as quickly as possible. There are many circumstances where firefighters SCBA will need to be manipulated in different situations or the SCBA will need to be donned in adverse requirements.

Performance Outcome: The firefighter will inspect, fix, and don their SCBA in a blacked out environment as quickly as possible. The firefighter will operate in limited to no visibility. There are no established timeframes for these evolutions. Once completed the SCBA should be donned properly and ready for operation.

Note: this evolution may be adjusted by the company officer to fit the need of his/her specific crew members.

Materials Required: Personal Protective Equipment
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
Dark Room
Stopwatch

Note: It is the discretion of the company officer what props and configuration are utilized for this company skill.

Critical Teaching Points:
1. This scenario simulates an emergency situation in which the firefighter is either experiencing an SCBA malfunction or other type of issue
2. Review the importance of taking care of our SCBA’s by ensuring their readiness before they are needed.
3. Reinforce the need for complete familiarity with their SCBA even with gloves on.
4. Remind firefighters to remain calm at all times, think about their options, and slowly negotiate the SCBA.
5. The evolution may be adjusted to meet the needs of the crew or to address any specific deficiencies that have been identified at the discretion of the company officer.
1. Ensure that all personal protective equipment is appropriately donned and secure before starting the exercise.
2. Ensure that company standards are conducted in complete dark.
3. The firefighters should take their face pieces and gloves into the dark room and prepare to assemble their SCBA packs.
4. The company officer should disassemble the SCBA pack and its components:
   a. Disconnect main line from cylinder
   b. Remove cylinder from harness
   c. Fully tighten waist and shoulder straps or even connect them through the pack
   d. Open by-pass valve and remove the regulator from the waist strap holder
   e. Tighten / loosen face piece straps
5. Firefighters should begin this skill with all PPE properly donned and gloves shall not be removed at any time.
6. Upon beginning, the firefighter shall locate the SCBA and begin preparing it for donning. Time begins when the firefighter touches the SCBA.
7. Time stops when the firefighter completely dons the fully functioning SCBA.