Rogers Fire Department
Minimum Company Standards
SOP 142, FORM 90

SCBA FAILURE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Reference: NFPA 1001, 5.3.1 2008 Edition **JPR Identification:**

Purpose: The purpose of this skill is to ensure the firefighter can manage an SCBA failure. Regardless of the reason for SCBA failure, firefighters should have a standardized systems check and operation procedure in the event of a SCBA failure or low air emergency. Each firefighter will be working in simulated hazardous atmospheres and will learn how to use controlled breathing techniques and emergency procedures in the event of an SCBA failure or low air situations.

Performance Outcome: The firefighter will navigate through various obstacles when they will experience a low air situation or SCBA failure**.** These evolutions shall be completed while wearing full PPE including breathing air. The SCBA may be drained down to a starting point of 500 psi for the purposes of these scenarios. The firefighter will operate in limited to no visibility. There are no established timeframes for these evolutions as the specific props or course may be adjusted to fit the needs of the company. *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
Radio
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 failure or low air emergency
2. In the event of an SCBA failure, the company officer should ensure that the firefighter remains calm, DO NOT remove face piece, fix the problem, notify partner / command, activate PASS, take actions for survival
3. In a low air emergency the company officer should ensure that the firefighter remains calm, conserves air, notifies partner / command, takes appropriate action (immediately exit the structure or make means for air)
4. Remind firefighters to remain calm at all times, manage their air supply, think about their options, and slowly negotiate the obstacles.
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 evolutions
2. Ensure that all evolutions are conducted in worse case situations, limited to no visibility, and simulated high heat which will require the individual to remain low throughout the evolutions.
3. For conservation of air in a low air emergency, the firefighter should demonstrate controlled breathing while attempting to exit the structure.
4. Controlled breathing method should continue throughout exercise until running out of air.
5. The SCBA should be completely empty prior to the removal of the regulator at which time the firefighter will take appropriate position, face down, hands covering regulator hole.
6. In the event of a sudden SCBA failure, the firefighter will immediately drop to the floor, getting as low as possible, as quick as possible.
7. The firefighter should first check the regulator by pressing the manual activation button on the front of the regulator that is connected to the face piece
8. If possible, the firefighter should utilize the by-pass valve and breathe from it to conserve air.
9. The firefighter should then check the remote gauge for air pressure and ensure the main cylinder valve is fully opened
10. ***AT NO TIME***, should the firefighter remove his mask, it is permissible to assume the face down position and utilize hands to cover regulator hole until problem solved. Panic is not permissible and the company officer should ensure that the firefighter remains calm at all times.
11. To further the scenario, the company officer may advise the firefighter that the regulator has failed but the by-pass valve is working at which time the firefighter may use the by-pass valve to breathe
12. The firefighter should declare a Mayday over the radio properly and then activate PASS device
13. The firefighter may be instructed to exit the structure but may only utilize the by-pass valve to breathe.