



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------|
| Policy Title: | Self Contained Breathing Apparatus | | |
| Policy Number: | 305 | Volume: | Safety |
| Approved By: | Tom Jenkins | Last Reviewed: | December 2021 |
| CFAI Reference: | 5E.2, 7F.4 | CAAS Reference: | N/A |
| Revision Summary: | Created – March 2009 Formatted – May 2012 Updated – December 2017 (SCBA removal) Updated- December 2021 (General clarity) | | |

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Rogers Fire Department that all members expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination shall be equipped with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and trained in its proper use, care, inspection and maintenance. The purpose of this policy is to ensure members are familiar with the proper use and function of all SCBAs on all apparatus.

POLICY

The intent of the SCBA policy is to allow members to avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants.

All members shall use SCBAs when operating in an atmosphere:

- that is contaminated
- which may suddenly become contaminated
- which is oxygen deficient
- which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient

Operationally, the situations above describe anyone operating inside a building fire or near areas of fire. It also includes areas:

- where explosion might be likely, including gas leaks and fuel spills
- where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere
- where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present, or may be released without warning such as Carbon Monoxide or toxic chemical leaks
- in any confined space, which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety

In addition to the above, SCBAs shall be worn by all members operating at incidents which have a likelihood of becoming contaminated by products of combustion or other hazardous substances. In these circumstances only, the SCBA may be worn with the facepiece removed. The wearing of SCBAs in these situations provides that it will be immediately available for use if conditions change or if personnel are to enter an area where the use of SCBAs is required. SCBAs should remain on members until the atmosphere is ready for occupants or civilians.

Premature removal of SCBAs must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases SCBAs must be used or the atmosphere must be changed. The department does not recognize the sampling of air in an overhaul environment as an acceptable cause for SCBA removal.

In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBAs shall be made by the Incident Commander based on an evaluation of conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and, where necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided. If in doubt about whether an SCBA is appropriate, it should be worn.

When using SCBA, members will have facepieces in place, breathing air from the supply provided. At least two firefighters, both using SCBA will work together and will maintain visual, audible, or physical communications at all times.

Inspection and Maintenance of SCBA

1. The regulator of each SCBA is engraved with a factory serial number. Each carbon cylinder has a factory serial number. The facepieces are not identified.
2. Fire Equipment Operators are accountable for each SCBA on the apparatus assigned
3. On a daily basis, the SCBA units shall be checked for the following by all company members:
 - a. Proper cylinder pressure
 - b. Proper number of SCBAs on apparatus
 - c. Their personal assigned facepiece is clean and in excellent operating condition with voice amplifier (if applicable)
 - d. Fasteners for tightness on harness
 - e. Open cylinder valve fully and check for leaks at the high-pressure hose connection, mainline valve, and bypass valve. Open and close the mainline and bypass valve to check for proper operation. Close all valves finger tight only. (Note pressure difference between cylinder gauge and regulator gauge.)

- f. Close the cylinder valve and bleed pressure off with mainline valve. Do not overtighten.
 - g. If any leakage or defect is noted, remove the unit from the apparatus, replace with a spare unit and take the defective unit to the Battalion Chief.
- 4. In addition to the previously mentioned items, SCBAs shall be thoroughly inspected each month as part of the apparatus inspection process. The week for this inspection is detailed in SOP 204. During that inspection, the following items will be checked and inspected:
 - a. Check each SCBA unit by donning and breathing rapidly in and out to assure proper airflow and correct operation of regulator valves (i.e., check mainline and bypass.
 - b. Break the seal of the facepiece to assure that the SCBA will operate in positive pressure.
 - c. Bleed air pressure from unit and close all valves finger tight. (Bleed off at the mainline valve.)
- 5. Each SCBA will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
- 6. Only Authorized Rogers Fire Department members or manufacturer's representative will make repairs to SCBA.
- 7. Repairs and preventative maintenance records will be kept on each SCBA and cylinder by fire headquarters. These records will permit the tracking of each unit from the time it is put in service until it is retired.