



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:  
Section:  
Original Date:  
Revised Date:

## PURPOSE

In order to assure the safety of all personnel operating in hazardous atmospheres, this policy outlines the approved practices for utilizing and maintaining Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

## POLICY

All RFD Personnel shall maintain familiarization with the SCBA equipment utilized by the department. Such familiarization shall include:

- Correct and efficient donning of SCBA equipment
- Daily inspection of all SCBA's and spare cylinders
- Safe refilling of SCBA cylinders

Each individual shall be responsible for wearing an SCBA anytime they are in a hazardous atmosphere where contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products, or other hazardous contaminants is possible.

All members shall use SCBAs when operating:

In a contaminated atmosphere

- In an atmosphere which may suddenly become contaminated
- In an atmosphere which is oxygen deficient
- In an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient

This includes all members operating:

- In an active fire area
- Directly above an active fire area
- In a potential explosion or fire area, 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
- 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. 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 – wear it.

Approved

Fire Chief

1 of 4



### **Inspection and Maintenance of SCBA**

It shall be the responsibility of the operator assigned to a particular apparatus equipped with SCBA to examine each SCBA and spare SCBA Bottle at least daily and after each use. Apparatus operators shall conduct and/or supervise the after use cleaning, operational checks, and replacement on apparatus of all SCBA.

All personnel operating in a hazardous atmosphere shall wear SCBA until the Incident Commander declares the area safe to remove the breathing apparatus.

Each user of the equipment shall be trained in the cleaning and operational checks of the SCBA's. As part of the operational check, it is imperative that the firefighter check for a seal each time the breathing apparatus is donned.

#### **Daily Inspection:**

1. Each SCBA assigned to an apparatus shall be inspected daily by the company assigned.
2. The inspection shall be made to ensure the SCBA is fully charged, clean, free of damage, and fully operational.
3. Cleaning, refilling cylinders or minor repairs shall be done by any member who has been properly trained.
4. Any unit showing damage or improper function shall be removed from service and reported to those responsible for SCBA repair.

#### **After Each Use:**

1. Decontaminate and clean.
2. Sanitize or disinfect mask.
3. Recharge cylinder.
4. Inspect harness, mask, cylinder for any defects.
5. Check for proper operation.
6. Return SCBA to service.
7. A malfunctioning SCBA shall immediately be taken out of service and tagged noting the defect. Report the defective SCBA to the member responsible for SCBA repair.
8. Only Authorized Russellville Fire Department members or manufacturer's representatives will make repairs to SCBAs.
9. Repairs and preventative maintenance records will be kept on each SCBA and cylinder. These records will permit the tracking of each unit from the time it is put in service until it is retired.

Approved

Fire Chief

2 of 4



## Respirator Fit Test

Respirator fit testing is required of all employees. It will be conducted by a third party company. The fit test will be specific for the respirator manufacturer, model, and size. This test is to be repeated annually, or if there is a change in the respiratory equipment. A change in the employee's physical appearance can affect the seal of a respirator and may require re-testing.

## Cleaning the SCBA

SCBA shall be cleaned according to the manufacturer's recommendation as follows.

### Cleaning the Respirator

1. Damp sponge dirt accumulations from the exterior of the respirator.
2. If a respirator has been exposed to potentially hazardous materials, decontaminate in accordance with established procedures.
3. Clean the facepiece and mask mounted regulator as described below.

### Cleaning the Facepiece

Supplies needed:

- Sanitizing or disinfecting cleaner
- Drinking (potable) water - running or in a spray bottle
- Air supply of lubricant free, dry breathing air, maximum 30 psig, for drying

*Note - Do not use a quaternary ammonia (ammonium chloride) type of cleaner.*

1. With the regulator removed, carefully wash the facepiece assembly with cleaner according to the instructions provided with the cleaner and thoroughly rinse in clean water. If the facepiece is heavily soiled, it may be necessary to first wash the facepiece with a solution of mild soap or detergent in warm water (110° F / 44° C maximum).

*Note - A nose CUP IS DESIGNED TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FACEPIECE AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE DISASSEMBLED FOR CLEANING.*

2. To sanitize or disinfect the facepiece, use the sanitizing or disinfecting cleaner according to the instructions provided with the cleaner. Sanitizing or disinfecting may require a specific contact time of the cleaner prior to rinsing.

*Note- The Kevlar and nylon head harnesses are made of porous material. Scott recommended cleaner may not be effective on porous material.*

3. Rinse with drinking water using a spray bottle or running water.
4. Shake excess water off of the facepiece and then dry with a clean, lint free cloth or gently blow dry with clean, dry breathing air of 30 psig or less pressure. Do not use shop air or any other air containing lubricants or moisture.

**Caution** - *Certain cleaning and disinfecting agents such quaternary ammonium compounds (ammonium chlorides) may cause damage, deterioration or accelerated aging to parts of the respirator. Use only the recommended cleaning and disinfecting agents.*

Approved

Fire Chief

3 of 4



### Cleaning the Mask Mounted Regulator

*Note - after cleaning the regulator, verify that all moisture has been removed from the regulator as described in the regulator check section of this instruction.*

1. Remove the breathing regulator from the facepiece by pulling back on the locking clip and rotating the regulator 1/4 turn clockwise.
2. Remove any obvious dirt from the external surfaces of the regulator using SCOTT recommended sanitizing or disinfecting cleaner with a sponge or soft cloth.
3. Inspect the inside of the regulator assembly through the regulator opening (see FIGURE 14). If excessive dirt or soil is present, forward regulator assembly to SCOTT trained authorized personnel for thorough cleaning.
4. Depress the donning/air saver switch, close the purge knob by turning fully clockwise. Use the SCOTT recommended sanitizing or disinfecting cleaner in the regulator opening and the immediate area around the opening (see FIGURE 14). Be sure to cover internal components completely.

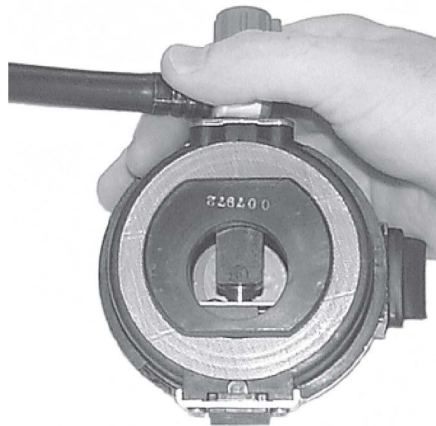


FIGURE 14

5. Follow the user instructions for the SCOTT recommended cleaner. A specific contact time may be required for sanitizing or disinfecting before rinsing.
6. Rinse the regulator with drinking water using a spray bottle or gently running tap water.
7. Shake excess water out of the regulator. Completely air dry the regulator before use.

*Note - To speed drying of the regulator, gently blow dry with clean, dry breathing air of 30 psig maximum. Do not use shop air or any other air containing lubricants or moisture.*

8. If the regulator was disconnected from the air supply for cleaning, reconnect and open the purge valve to remove any moisture. Close purge valve.

Approved