

SOG 3.7 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire Rescue - Standard Operating Guidelines

Category: Operations Draft: 11-12-12 Approved: 02-06-13	SOG 3.7 Title: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
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3.7.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Guideline is to ensure that all personnel likely to function in an Immediately Dangerous to Life & Health (IDLH) atmosphere should be equipped with and trained in the proper use and maintenance of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

3.7.2 Guidelines

3.7.2.1 Use of Equipment

All qualified personnel may utilize the SCBA provided to them during fire calls (in some cases brush fires may be excluded), or when encountering any unknown, suspect, or IDLH atmospheres. SCBA are not to be removed until the atmosphere has been determined to be safe, or until personnel remove themselves from the contaminated atmosphere. Permission to remove the SCBA should be given by the Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer.

3.7.2.2 Monthly SCBA Check

All SCBA are to be checked monthly and records maintained at the station where the SCBA is assigned.

- a. Determine if all bottles are filled to 4000psi.
- b. Check to ensure the cylinder gauge and the regulator gauge read within 100 psi of each other.
- c. Check to ensure the low-pressure alarm sounds when operating the cylinder.
- d. Check to ensure that all connections are tight and free of leaks.
- e. Check to ensure the harness system is in good condition and the straps are fully extended.
- f. Check to ensure the bypass (purge) valve is operational. Be sure it is returned to the fully closed position.
- g. Check to ensure the Pak-Alert is operational.
- h. Check the air cylinder to ensure there are no gouges. Air cylinders with gouges one-eighth of an inch deep or larger should be removed from service and a SCOTT Technician notified of the problem.
- i. Check to ensure that the air cylinder is shut off after use and the system is relieved of all pressure by using the bypass valve.
- j. Check to ensure that the face piece is in good condition and clean. The face piece should be thoroughly washed with warm water containing any mild commercial disinfectant, rinsed with clear, warm water and dried with a lint-free cloth. Face pieces should be cleaned after each use.

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3.7.2.3 Improperly Functioning SCBA

If a SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it should be taken out of service immediately, tagged with the description of the problem/s, repaired and returned to service as soon as possible. The station Battalion Chief is to be notified immediately when a unit is tagged.

3.7.2.4 Routine Use

It is important to keep regulators dry and free of debris. Use a reasonable amount of care when donning and doffing the SCBA to prevent "swinging" and possibly damaging the regulator. Be sure to place the mask and regulator in a position so water and debris cannot contaminate either piece. Full and empty air cylinders should be kept at separate locations at a fire or other emergency scene. All low and empty cylinders should be replaced prior to leaving the scene of a fire or other emergency whenever possible. SCBAs should be filled, inspected and cleaned for service after each use.

3.7.2.5 Pre-donning Inspection

- a. Check to ensure the air cylinder is full at 4000-4500 psi.
- b. Check to ensure the purge valve is operational.
- c. Check to ensure the low-pressure alarm sounds when opening cylinder.
- d. Check to ensure the cylinder and regulator gauges are within 100 psi of each other.
- e. Check to ensure all the straps are fully extended.
- f. Check to ensure the Pak-Alert is operational.

3.7.2.6 Fit Testing

A certified SCOTT Technician is to perform an annual quantitative fit test on all operations personnel per NFPA 1500. The Chief is responsible for tracking these records and scheduling the fit tests, and ensuring that Pinos Altos Volunteer Fire and Rescue is in compliance with NFPA 1500.

3.7.2.7 Bench Testing

Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires all SCBAs to be bench tested annually, and cylinder tested every five years. Only authorized SCOTT Technicians are to perform this test.