



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

Subject: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus & Breathing Air Compressor
Revised: 3-11-09

Purpose: To establish a procedure for the use, maintenance, storage and refilling of all self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Department.

Scope: This procedure will be followed by all members of the Department and will be supervised by the Fire Chief. Any deviation of this procedure will require prior notification of the Chief and the Breathing Apparatus Officer who will be assigned by the Chief.

General:

18.01 Breathing Apparatus

Each Department engine will be equipped with a minimum of (4) 2216 p.s.i. Survivair Panther self-contained breathing apparatus. Each SCBA is labeled with a unique ID number. Each new SCBA air cylinder shall be numbered with a unique ID number. Each Engine shall have at least (1) spare SCBA cylinder for each breathing apparatus.

Each employee of the Department and Fire administration has been issued a face-piece that is to be utilized with the Survivair Panther breathing apparatus. It is the responsibility of the individual to keep this mask in good working order. Any repairs that are needed should be directed to the Breathing Apparatus Officer.

Breathing apparatus will be used by any employee that enters a potentially hazardous/contaminated environment to perform fire suppression/rescue or hazardous materials abatement activity or in any potentially oxygen deficient environment. This includes any environment outdoors, indoors or in a confined space. NO EXCEPTIONS.

18.02 Maintenance of All Breathing Apparatus

All breathing cylinders should be kept as full as possible at all times. A minimum of 1900 p.s.i. should be kept in every cylinder to be considered full, and ready for service.

Harness straps shall be kept in the fully open position while stored on the apparatus.

All face-piece mounted regulators shall be kept either attached to the belt clip holder for the unit or to the face piece itself. This will keep dirt from getting into the regulator while it is not being used.



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After each use, each unit shall be fully checked, washed if needed, sanitized with solution and dried properly.

If a unit is down for repair, or off of an out of service apparatus. Any unit taken out of service for repair shall have notice attached to it explaining the problem, date and name of the employee reporting the problem.

Each member of the Department has been individually issued an Survivair face piece as part of your protective clothing. The member will be responsible for the following maintenance of the face piece.

1. Check that their face piece is functioning properly and is in safe condition.
2. Place their face piece with their assigned gear for use at each incident.
3. Remove and clean their face piece after each use and store in properly.
4. Keep the face piece in a sanitary and clean condition in the department issued bag.
5. Report any problems to the Chief of the Department.

18.03 Daily and Weekly SCBA Inspection

All paid fire personnel are to check their designated SCBA every day that the employee is on duty. All SCBA checks are to be noted in the appropriate daily check out log.

All SCBA's are to be check weekly using the appropriate weekly SCBA log. All SCBA's are to be checked weekly for proper location, air pressure, damage to cylinder, regulator function and damage, diaphragm function and damage, face piece and tube function and damage, and all SCBA are to be cleaned and sanitized as needed.

18.04 Use of Air Compressor and Refilling Station

The Department has a compressor / fill station / cascade system located at the station. This unit is designed for the filling of high-pressure 4500psi FIRE DEPARTMENT breathing cylinders. The filling of private SCUBA or other types of cylinders with this unit is not allowed. Permission must be received from the Chief to use the refilling station for any other reason than to fill Fire Department cylinders. This does not include cylinders from other Fire Departments or from other City Departments.



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18.05 Filling Cylinders For Other Agencies

The Breathing air compressor is available to all outside agencies for filling SCBA cylinders and other high pressure cylinders.

Before filling SCBA cylinders for other Fire Departments or other agencies, the person filling the cylinders must check the Hydrostatic test date to ensure the cylinder is safe to fill.

18.06 Operational Procedure:

Turn compressor to AUTO setting. The system will run until it reaches a pre-set pressure and will cut-off. This will fill the cascade cylinders to 4500 p.s.i. after the compressor has automatically shut off the compressor is to be turned off unit bottle filling is complete. Then the cascade bottles are to be refilled to 4500 p.s.i.

The three-bank (4500 p.s.i.) cascade system is designed to refill the smaller pack cylinders (2) at a time. The cylinders shall always be placed in the fragmentation collars behind the gauge panel each time they are filled. **NO WATER IS TO BE PLACED IN THIS CONTAINER; THE CYLINDERS ARE TO BE FILLED DRY.**

Cylinders are to be filled at no more than 600 p.s.i. per minute. The cylinder is to be filled to a pressure of no more than 2250 p.s.i.

Once cylinders are filled, caution should be used in removing the fill hoses from the cylinders. Hi-pressure air is filling the line and bleeding the line rapidly can cause eye or hearing injury if protection is not used. **ALL EMPLOYEES MUST UTILIZE EYE AND EAR PROTECTION DURING THE OPERATION OF THE FILL STATION AND COMPRESSOR.**

After use, the cascade system must be refilled to the maximum level (4500psi), and all filler lines are to be bled down and stored at the proper locations.

Any questions concerning the operation of the fill station should be directed to the Fire Chief.



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