



# Stamford Fire Department

## 201 E McHarg

### Stamford, Texas 79553

#### **Subject: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**

Revised: 12-5-08

#### 27.01 PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the wearing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during responses into areas of atmospheric contamination.

#### 27.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Stamford Fire Department that all personnel expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination, will be equipped with self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.

Two (2) SCBAs located in the front overhead compartment of E-1 shall be issued to the Fire Chief and paid firefighter.

#### 27.03 ACCOUNTABILITY

Each member/employee of line operations shall be issued an SCBA mask and soft case, and will be accountable for one (1) SCBA and shall check the condition of that SCBA at the beginning of each shift, after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition.

Each volunteer member shall be issued an SCBA mask when proficient use has been established by a minimum of two (2) officers of the Stamford Fire Department, and the volunteer member has a minimum of 6 months active membership with the fire department

#### 27.04 MAINTENANCE

SCBA facepiece cleaning, all personnel shall use only clean warm water to clean the SCBA facepiece. Using Vanquish Mask Disinfectant will cause the exhalation valve to stick closed. If an SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, tagged, and reported, and repaired or replaced immediately.

All SCBA's will be flow tested annually (month of September) and records will be kept documenting all testing. SCBA masks will be tested at this time. Any SCBA failing the annual flow test shall be taken out of service and shall be sent in for repair or repaired at this time.

#### 27.05 USE OF SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)

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

The use of breathing apparatus means that all personnel shall have facepiece in place, breathing air from supply provided. Where appropriate, supplied air, breathing apparatus may be used in place of SCBA.



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This includes all personnel operating:

1. In an active fire area.
2. Directly above an active fire area.
3. In a potential explosion area, including gas leaks, and fuel spills that would involve SFD personnel.
4. Where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle fires.
5. Where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e. carbon monoxide during overhaul)
6. Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning.
7. In any confined space, which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety.
8. During salvage and overhaul operations, until the officer in charge approves removal.

Premature removal of an SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide (CO) and other toxic products.

If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBAs shall be used. The Officer in Charge shall be responsible for this determination. The use of SCBA will be approved anytime personnel have concerns for personal safety.

An evaluation of all member/employees shall be conducted annually in the use of the SCBA. Each member/employee shall be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency and compatibility with SCBA under conditions, which simulate those expected as a job requirement.