

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE

PROCEDURE:	OPERATIONS	POLICY
TITLE:	Respiratory Protection Plan -SCBA	O-7

PURPOSE: The purpose of this guide is to establish a guideline for qualifications, usage and maintenance of SCBA. This guide is intended to be interpreted in conjunction with manufacture’s recommendations as well as OFPC training OSHA/PESH regulations and NFPA standards.

SCOPE: Hamilton Fire Department personnel are responsible for working in environments that are hazardous or potentially hazardous and will be required to use SCBA. The Hamilton Fire Department uses Scott 2.2 *Fifty* type air-paks that are equipped with integrated PASS alarms. These units have 30 minute breathing air supply cylinders and are considered positive pressure respirators. Personnel who work in atmospheres that require respiratory protection will wear department issued SCBA.

QUALIFICATIONS: Firefighters who are required to wear SCBA shall meet the following standards:

1. Successful completion of Firefighter 1 (certification) or equivalent. Acceptable equivalents are applied to personnel who received initial training prior to NYS implementing the Firefighter 1 curriculum.
2. Demonstration of knowledge and skills to the Fire Chief, Fire Department Training Officer, or their designee(s). This should include:
 - a. Basic Maintenance of the unit
 - b. Safety and operational checks
 - c. Proper donning and doffing procedures
 - d. Operation
 - e. Emergency procedures
 - f. Familiarization with accountability and evacuation procedures
 - g. Cleaning and placing the unit back in service following use
3. Classified as an “A” or “B” firefighter during the annual physical exam.
4. Annual OSHA required training:
 - a. 2 hours of dedicated SCBA training

APPROVED BY:	Ross Hoham	EFFECTIVE DATE:	09/23/97
TITLE:	Fire Chief	LAST REVISION:	2/25/08

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PROCEDURES FOR USE: SCBA shall be donned by qualified personnel when responding to any alarm that may involve exposure to a hazardous atmosphere. This should include:

1. Structure Fire
2. MVA's (engine co.)
3. Hazardous Conditions
4. Any situation that the officer or firefighter feels is appropriate.

OPERATION: While working in or around a hazardous environment, personnel will:

1. Work in teams of 2 or 3 (buddy system)
2. work so search operations will be conducted by searching each room while keeping to the right
3. notify their partner of an SCBA emergency by placing his hand over the facepiece of the partner.
 - a. A 'Mayday' call shall be initiated
4. leave the atmosphere when there is a low air alarm activation

A "Mayday" call shall be initiated by any firefighter who feels that they are lost, disoriented, or in danger because of an equipment or atmospheric problem. The firefighter should attempt to transmit the following information:

1. His location
2. The nature of the emergency
3. Status of his crew

INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE: The following shall be performed:

1. Yearly - air-flow inspection and certification (factory spec)
2. Monthly -Perform functional test including breathing air
3. Weekly
 - a. Cylinder Pressure Check
 - b. Harness strap visual check
 - c. Charge regulator and slowly bleed off air
 - i. Check pressure gauge
 - d. Low air alarm check
 - e. Purge valve closed
 - f. Donning switch in the closed position
 - g. Facepiece check
4. Records shall be kept on file regarding these checks
5. Following Use
 - a. Perform weekly and monthly test procedures
 - b. Ensure unit is clean and dry

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