



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION - SCBA

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Purpose: This policy identifies the components of GFD's Respiratory Protection units as it relates to Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), to ensure firefighter safety in IDLH environments. This document is intended to satisfy the requirements of OSHA 29CFR 1910.134, NFPA 1404 and NFPA 1500.

Storage of SCBA

All units shall be properly secured in the bracket provided on each vehicle. Spare cylinders shall be stored in the brackets or holder provided and shall not be stored loose or where they may be at risk of damage. At scenes of substantial duration, driver/operators shall keep SCBA from freezing after use by storing them in the heated areas of the apparatus (where and when practical).

Certification for Use

Medical

All personnel who are expected to use SCBA shall be evaluated and certified on an annual basis. A pulmonary function test shall be used as the evaluation method and shall be conducted by a third party authorized by the fire department. All new personnel shall be medically evaluated prior to initial SCBA use. Record of the medical evaluation shall be kept in the individual's occupational health file.

Fit Testing

All personnel shall be fitted annually to ensure proper face piece size. This test shall be conducted by SCBA maintenance personnel. All new personnel shall be fit tested prior to initial SCBA use. Records of this testing shall be maintained by the Respiratory Protection Program Coordinator.

Training

All personnel shall be trained in the proper use of SCBA. The training of personnel is under the direction of the Training Division. The Training Division shall keep a list of all personnel trained to wear SCBA. The department performance standard for complete donning of SCBA shall be sixty (60) seconds (NFPA 1001).

All personnel are issued a face piece. The inspection and cleaning are the responsibility of the wearer. The face piece shall be kept in the bag when not in use. The face piece inspection shall consist of the following:

- Visual inspection of the face piece and head harness.
- Check for a tight seal.
- Exhalation valve is working properly.
- Nose cup is installed properly.

SCBA Use

Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face-piece and the face shall not be permitted.

Personnel shall don SCBA in the following scenarios:

- The atmosphere is hazardous.
- The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
- The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.
- During confined space and/or below grade operations.
- In any oxygen deficient atmosphere.
- When instructed to do so by an officer.



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Personnel responding to a potential fire incident shall have SCBA strapped on and ready for use when reporting to the Incident Commander for assignment. On apparatus that are equipped with a built-in SCBA bracket on the seat, the harness shall be donned enroute.

All personnel shall don and place into operation their SCBA before entering any IDLH atmosphere. Personnel operating in an SCBA shall do so in teams of at least two (2), in accordance with GFD policy.

SCBA shall continue to be utilized during all phase of suppression activities including overhaul.

Smoke ejector use should be considered for continuous ventilation. Caution shall be used with gasoline powered fans to avoid introduction of exhaust gases into the atmosphere.

When SCBA is removed, they shall not be left in the building where they may be damaged. SCBA will be returned to a central staging area for service and returned to a condition ready for use until they are returned to their respective apparatus.

Air Management and Emergency Procedures

The Rule of Air Management (ROAM) shall be utilized when operating in an IDLH atmosphere. The key components of ROAM are:

- Know how much air you have before entering an IDLH.
- Manage your air as you proceed.
- Exit the IDLH before the low air alarm activates.

If any member of the crew has a low air alarm or has a malfunction of any part of their SCBA, the entire crew shall exit the building immediately.

After Use Inspection

After every use of a SCBA, the wearer shall be responsible for the following:

- Clean and wipe dry the harness, cylinder, and face piece.
- Fill all empty cylinders.
- Perform a daily inspection.

Refilling of Cylinders

The routine refilling of cylinders shall be done in accordance with the recommendations of the cylinder and cascade system manufacturers. Cylinders shall be placed inside the fragmentation guards (tubes) during refilling.

The following is the procedure that shall be used for refilling air cylinders:

- Each unit is responsible for filling their cylinders after an incident.
- Cylinders are to be refilled at the Fire Station or a mobile cascade if on scene.
- Ensure that the proper numbers of cylinders are returned to the apparatus.
- If a cylinder is damaged, replace it with a spare.
- Follow the maintenance procedure after replacing a damaged cylinder.



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Filling Cylinders from an Outside Agency

When a request is made to fill air cylinders from an outside agency the hydrostatic test date of the cylinder(s) shall be checked for compliance. All cylinders must be tested every five (5) years. If the cylinders are found to be out of date they shall not be filled. All filling of cylinders shall be done by a GFD member.

Eyeglasses and Corrective Vision Eyewear

Personnel shall not wear standard eyeglasses in conjunction with SCBA. Any style of eyewear which compromises the seal are prohibited. Contact lenses are permitted, and spectacle kits which attach to the inside of the face piece and lenses are available upon request to the Fire Chief.

Records and Reports

It shall be the responsibility of the Officer-in-Charge to ensure that records are kept for each of the following areas:

- Serial numbers of face pieces, harnesses, and cylinders.
- Air quality testing results.
- SCBA equipment out of service for repair.
- SCBA equipment testing and repairs.
- Compressor repairs and routine maintenance.

SCBA program evaluation

The department shall annually review the SCBA program for the purpose of determining the need to upgrade or change various aspects of the program.