

# Blackwood Fire Company

Annual SCBA Refresher



# Regulations

- NJ PEOSH 12:100-10.10 Respiratory protection devices
- OSHA 29CFR1910.134
- Operating Guideline 7.2 Firefighter Safety  
– Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

# NJ PEOSH 12:100-10.10

- Requires SCBA to be worn:
  - While engaged in interior structural firefighting;
  - While working in confined spaces where toxic products of combustion or an oxygen deficiency may be present;
  - During emergency situations involving toxic substances; and
  - During all phases of firefighting and overhaul.

# 29CFR1910.134

- Respiratory Protection Program
- Medical Surveillance
- Respirator Fit Tests
- 2 in / 2 out
- Prohibits facial hair in the mask seal area

# OSHA Procedures for Structural Firefighting

- At least two employees enter the IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times;
- At least two employees are located outside the IDLH atmosphere;
- All employees engaged in interior structural firefighting use SCBAs.
- One of the two individuals located outside the IDLH atmosphere may be assigned to an additional role, such as incident commander in charge of the emergency or safety officer, so long as this individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.
- Nothing in this section is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.

# SCBA Facts

- Cylinder holds approximately 30 minutes of breathing air.
- Working time depends on many factors.
- Adequate exit time must be factored in.

# Scott NxG2



# Donning Procedures

- Reset regulator mounted donning switch
- Ensure emergency bypass valve is closed
- Turn cylinder on @ main valve
- Listen for low pressure alarm and PASS chirp
- Donning methods:
  - From Seated Position
  - Coat Method
  - Overhead from Compartment

# While Wearing

- Check Face piece for Leaks (Seal Check)
- Control Breathing
  - In through nose
  - Out through mouth
  - Breathe deeply, hold 3-4 seconds
  - Exhale Slowly
- Monitor remaining air supply – H.U.D.
  - Ensure sufficient quantity to exit IDLH
- Maintain contact with crew

# Emergency Procedures

## ■ ALL REQUIRE MAYDAY

- Out of Air
- SCBA Malfunction
- Lost or Disoriented
- Entangled
- Mask Damaged or Displaced

# Out of Air

- Failure of the Vibralert is unlikely, but possible.
- Notify your partner.
- Call for help, this is a MAYDAY situation.
- Stay low, attempt to exit if your partner can assist or you can see lights, etc.
- Break your mask seal and filter with hood as last resort only.

# SCBA Malfunction

- The Vibralert indicates that the secondary pressure regulator is in use.
- Normal as pressure drops to 25% of capacity.
  - Activation at higher pressure indicates malfunction.
- Notify partner, exit as soon as possible

# Lost / Disoriented

- Attempt to locate partner
  - Lights
  - Reflective trim
  - Call out
- Radio – Mayday EARLY, not when out of air
- Give best known position, “searching floor 2 bedrooms, etc.. “

# Entangled

- STOP!
- Notify partner
- Lower slightly and back up to clear cylinder snags. Swim movement.
- If you must remove SCBA to clear..  
MAYDAY
- SCBA is always removed from right to left, maintain control of regulator side.
- Use cutters with caution

# Mask Damaged / Displaced

- STOP! Notify partner
- Attempt to replace mask if possible
- If mask is damaged, hold mask to face, covering broken areas if necessary.
- Partner to assist in exit. MAYDAY for extenuating circumstances, unable to exit, low air, etc...

# MAYDAY Procedures

- MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY
- L.U.N.A.R.
  - Location
  - Unit number
  - Name
  - Air supply level
  - Reason for calling MAYDAY
- IC / RIC Leader communicate with FF in distress
  - All others maintain radio silence

# After Use Maintenance

- Recharge/replace cylinder if at 90% capacity or less (below 4000 PSI)
- Inspect cylinder connection and regulator connection for damage or debris
- Inspect face piece
- Clean face piece
  - Submerge in approved cleaner/disinfectant with warm water
  - Rinse in warm water
  - Air dry

# Daily / After Use Inspection

- Ensure Cylinder pressure is greater than 4000 lbs
- If replacing cylinder:
  - Properly seated in coupler (evidenced by audible tone)
  - Cylinder Retention Strap securely affixed
- Operation of Vibralert
  - Open cylinder valve
  - Vibralert should activate briefly as pressure builds up, then stop
  - Check gauge on shoulder strap
  - Close cylinder valve, slowly bleed down air by opening emergency bypass valve, note pressure at which Vibralert activates
  - Should activate at 25% of working pressure and continue until pressure drops below 5 - 10% of working pressure

# Daily / After Use Inspection

- Shoulder and Waist Straps fully extended
- Inspect entire assembly
  - Cracks
  - Cuts
  - Abrasions
  - Dents
  - Missing parts
- Cylinder secured to back plate and harness
- Search rope in place. Pack end secured to back frame.

# Defective Units

- Remove from service
- Tag and place at watch desk
- Move side compartment packs to riding seats
- File Equipment Report
- Mechanic or authorized tech ONLY to repair

# Annual SCBA Refresher

- The following slides will highlight the practical skills portion of the Annual SCBA Refresher
  - Covers all phases of emergency response, from pre-response through restoration of equipment (Phase I, portion of Phase II discussion only)
  - Goal is a quick response **WITHOUT** compromising basic safety principles
  - Preparation and efficiency are essential

# PHASE I: RESPONSE TO STATION

- Pre-stage keys / clothes
- Vehicle prepared for response
- Drive safely / obey all laws / wear seat belt
- Use blue light only if authorized



## PHASE II: DONNING PPE / BOARDING APPARATUS

- Park vehicle properly / consider other responders
- Proceed to PPE rack quickly, without running
- Don appropriate PPE for incident type PRIOR to boarding apparatus
- Board apparatus / hang apparatus accountability tag / secure seat belt

## PHASE III: RESPONSE TO INCIDENT

- Remain seated and belted during entire response
- Partially or fully don SCBA **WITHOUT** removing seat belt
- Confirm riding assignment / hang accountability tag on task board
- Review tools to be carried / confirm location / DO NOT remove from mount during response

## PHASE IV: ARRIVAL AT SCENE

- Don SCBA if not accomplished during response
- Secure appropriate tools
- Exit apparatus / assemble as a team / proceed to location

# PHASE V: ENTRY TO IDLH

- Don mask / flashover hood
- Pull up coat collar and close flap
- Pull down helmet ear flaps
- Don helmet / properly affix chin strap
- Depress regulator mounted donning switch
- Open cylinder valve / confirm air status / confirm integrated PASS operation
- Attach regulator to mask / confirm heads-up display operation
- Confirm portable radio operation and correct frequency (if equipped with same)
- Perform buddy check of partner
- Confirm assignment and plan with partner
- Enter IDLH

# PHASE VI: INTERIOR OPERATIONS

- Always operate as a team
- If searching, use right or left hand search
- Maintain constant visual, touch or voice contact with partner
- Constantly monitor air capacity, **ensure adequate reserve for escape**
- Demonstrate MAYDAY procedures (LUNAR)
- Demonstrate manual activation of PASS
- Demonstrate reset of PASS in pre-alert and full alert mode
- Demonstrate use of EBSS
- Exit IDLH

# PHASE VII: RESTORATION

- SCBA clean and free of debris
- Cylinder replaced if below 4000 PSI
  - Depleted cylinders stored in apparatus or station SCBA rack with valves facing in
  - Full cylinders stored with valves facing out
- Cylinder properly installed / Hold down strap secured
- Shoulder and waist straps fully extended
- EBSS hose properly stowed, fitting secured in holder
- Regulator secured to waist strap holder

# PHASE VII: RESTORATION

- SCBA stored in proper location on apparatus
  - Retention strap secured around SCBA frame only (shoulder straps free)
  - Retention strap release cord properly positioned
- Tools cleaned and properly stowed
- Portable radio cleaned, set to proper channel, returned to appropriate charger

**This completes the ANNUAL SCBA  
REFRESHER Slideshow.**

**This slideshow can be found on the  
lounge computer and in the Downloads  
Section of the Blackwood Fire Company  
website: [WWW.BLACKWOODFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.BLACKWOODFIRE.ORG)**

