

REFERENCE

Appendix 5-06a, Respiratory Protection Program • Appendix 5-11j, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Inspections and Repairs • SOP 5-13, Infectious Disease Control • WAC 296-305-02017 • WAC 296-305-04001 • WAC 296-62 WAC, Part E - Respiratory Protection • WAC 296-62 Part I-1- Asbestos, Tremolite, Anthophyllite, and Actinolite

SCOPE

All department members required to wear respiratory protection while performing fire suppression, rescue, or emergency medical services.

PURPOSE

To reduce the potential for occupational injury and illness caused by exposure to breathing contaminated air.

STANDARD DEFINITIONS

Respiratory Hazard – Atmospheres containing oxygen deficiencies, smokes, vapors, mists, fog, harmful dusts, fumes, sprays, gasses, contagious disease, or other airborne contaminants.

POLICY

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (the District) shall ensure that self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and/or respirators are provided for and used by all members working in areas where the atmosphere is known to be hazardous, is suspected of being hazardous, or may rapidly become hazardous. All respiratory equipment provided by the District shall meet the requirements of WAC 296-305.

The District shall provide respiratory protection, which is applicable and suitable for the purpose intended. Respiratory protection shall be provided at no cost to members.

Members with physical disabilities such as, but not limited to, respiratory impairments, or claustrophobia when wearing a respirator, shall not be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators unless it has been determined by a qualified physician or other licensed healthcare

professional they are physically able to perform the work while using the equipment. All members' medical status should be reviewed annually.

Members shall only use the SCBA make, model, and face piece size for which they have been trained to use, successfully performance tested, and fit tested within the past 12 months.

The District shall ensure that all members receive initial SCBA training in the step-by-step procedures for donning SCBA, checking it for proper function, and emergency procedures. Continued training shall follow initial training on at least a quarterly basis. Members shall be tested at least annually in the donning and use of SCBA. Training shall be accordance with the procedures established by the Kitsap County Training Manual.

All members working in a hazard area requiring the use of SCBA shall wear and use a PASS device. PASS devices shall be used in accordance with the procedures established by the Kitsap County Training Manual.

The District shall ensure that SCBA and PASS devices are tested and inspected routinely to ensure that they are ready for immediate use. Only qualified individuals according to manufacturer's recommendations shall maintain SCBA and PASS devices.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All members shall be responsible for using a level of respiratory protection that is appropriate to the degree of potential hazard they may be exposed to. They shall also be responsible for using such equipment in a manner that is consistent with the training and standard operating procedures adopted by the District.

The District Health & Safety Officer shall be responsible for administering the respiratory protection program.

The District Training Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all members are properly trained and proficient in the use of respiratory equipment prior to being assigned to conditions requiring the use of such equipment. The Training Officer shall ensure that all training meets the requirements of WAC 296-305 and WAC 296-62.

Shift supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that operational inspections are appropriately completed for their assigned respiratory equipment. Supervisors shall ensure that the members conducting inspections are adequately qualified to do so.

All members shall be responsible for the proper tagging, reporting, and follow-up with any deficient respirator they may discover.

The District shall designate a specific individual who shall be responsible for coordinating the District's SCBA Maintenance Program.

SCBA Maintenance Program Coordinator shall be Responsible for:

Maintaining a complete inventory of all District SCBA.

Ensuring that on a routine basis, all SCBA are adequately inspected for the assurance of operational readiness.

Maintaining a program for completing scheduled inspections, testing, overhauls, etc.

Performing general maintenance and repairs that are within the scope of manufactures recommendations.

Maintaining records of all inspections, maintenance and repairs, etc.

PROCEDURE

When effective administrative or engineering controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted or evaluated, appropriate respirators shall be used pursuant to District policy.

SCBA shall not be used as an underwater device.

Members shall not alter, modify, or substitute any components without the written approval of the manufacturer and the Fire Chief. Such alterations void the NIOSH/MSHA approval.

Compressed breathing air shall be tested at least quarterly. Air quality shall meet the requirements of ANSI/CGA with a minimum air quality of grade D, as well as meeting a water vapor level of 24 ppm or less.

A baseline medical determination of an individual's fitness for respirator use shall be based on information obtained from the Form 5-06a, [WISHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire](#) to be reviewed by the District's Physician or other Licensed Healthcare Professional and a pulmonary function (spirometry) test.

A re-evaluation may be required if:

1. The District's Physician or other Licensed Healthcare Professional recommends it;
2. The user of the respirator indicates medical signs or symptoms related to his/her ability to use a respirator;
3. Observations made during the fit testing or program evaluations indicate the members needs to be re-evaluated;
4. Changes are made in the fire department's standard operating procedures or equipment, which will substantially increase the physiological burden placed on the members.

Follow-up evaluations will be conducted each year. Members shall either: complete and mail [Form 5-06a, WISHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire](#) or complete and hand carry the Questionnaire form to the District Physician or other Licensed Healthcare Professional during their annual Wellness Program Medical evaluation.

All members shall be fit tested before being permitted to use SCBA in a hazardous atmosphere. SCBA fit testing shall be conducted annually; anytime there are changes in the type of face piece used; or anytime there are significant physical changes in the user such as a 10% weight gain/loss, scarring, cosmetic surgery, etc. Only members with a properly fitting SCBA face piece shall be permitted to function in a hazardous atmosphere.

Members with beards, facial hair, or similar physical characteristics that limit the ability of the face piece to seal properly shall not use respiratory equipment. An improper face seal may allow contaminants to leak into the face piece, reducing or eliminating respiratory protection.

Members shall not wear contact lenses while using SCBA, if the risk of eye damage is increased by their use. If spectacles are worn with SCBA, the straps, temple bars, or frames shall not compromise the face piece seal in any way.

Members shall wear full protective clothing including protective hood whenever SCBA are utilized.

SCBA donning, doffing, operating procedures, emergency procedures, and routine inspections, shall be performed in accordance with the procedures established by the Kitsap County Training Manual.

Members using SCBA shall operate with in the Passport Accountability System, in teams of two or more. Entry team accountability and monitoring shall be provided for all members who enter a hazardous environment.

Members using a properly functioning SCBA shall not compromise the protective integrity of the SCBA by removing the face piece for any reason in hazardous atmospheres or in atmospheres where the quality of air is unknown.

Members shall return to a safe atmosphere immediately if discoloration, crazing, blistering, cracking, or other deterioration of the lens material is observed.

Members shall be decontaminated prior to removal of SCBA whenever fire fighting activities result in exposure to hazardous substances. Reasonable precautions shall be taken to maintain an uncontaminated atmosphere to the breathing zone when changing air cylinders.

All respiratory equipment shall be inspected routinely before and after use, and immediately prior to each use by the wearer to ensure that it is in proper working condition. SCBA shall be inspected daily at staffed stations and monthly at un-staffed stations. In-service SCBA shall be inspected no less than monthly. SCBA that has been in storage shall be thoroughly inspected prior to being placed in-service.

Any SCBA found to be in need of service or repair shall be immediately corrected or reported to the appropriate supervisor. District members shall only take on repairs that are within their scope of authority. No unauthorized repairs shall be made.

Each SCBA shall be cleaned and sanitized to ensure that the next user is provided with clean and sanitized equipment at all times. SCBA issued for other than continuous personal use by a

particular worker, such as routine, non-routine, emergency, or rescue use, shall be cleaned and sanitized after each use. After cleaning and sanitizing, each respirator shall be inspected to determine if it is in proper working condition

In cases where there is a reported failure of an SCBA, the unit shall be removed from service, tagged with an explanation of the problem, repaired as needed, and tested before being returned to service.

When any part of a SCBA is found to be in need of repair and not able to be repaired immediately as a field repair, the entire unit shall be placed out-of-service, tagged with an explanation of the problem, and sent to the appropriate location for repair.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 5-06a	Respiratory Protection Program
Form 5-06a	WISHA Respirator Medical Questionnaire
Form 5-06b	Respirator Fit Test Record
Form 5-11m	SCBA Functional Check
Form 5-11n	SCBA Inspection Record