

Buechel Fire Protection District

SAFETY POLICIES

SP-0005

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Title: Respiratory Protection Program

Approval Date – 5-1-1998

Section	Instruction
	<p>Respiratory Protection Program</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Written Program2. Policy Statement3. District's and Firefighter's Responsibilities4. Use of Respirators5. Training Program6. Inspection, Maintenance, and Care of Respirators7. Air Cylinder Replacement8. Cleaning Procedures9. Medical Evaluation10. Breathing Air Quality and Use11. Program Evaluation12. Record-keeping <p>1. Written Program</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements of the Respiratory Protection Program and use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, such fire suppression personnel may avoid any respiratory contact with the products of combustion, super heated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants. From this point on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus will be listed as SCBA.</p> <p>2. Policy Statement</p> <p>It shall be the policy of the Buechel Fire District that all personnel expected to respond and function in areas of atmospheric contamination shall be equipped with respiratory protection and trained in its proper use and maintenance.</p> <p>3. District and Firefighter Responsibility</p> <p>A. <u>District's Responsibility</u></p> <p>The fire district will provide the necessary respiratory protection to protect the firefighter health. The respirator provided shall be suitable for the intended use. The fire district shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a respiratory program whenever respirators are used.</p>

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4.	<p>A program coordinator shall be appointed by the Chief of the district to oversee the program. The program coordinator for the district is the Training Bureau.</p> <p>B. <u>Firefighter's Responsibility</u></p> <p>Each firefighter shall account for the respiratory protection in their position on the apparatus, and they shall check the operational condition of that SCBA after each emergency response. If the breathing apparatus is in need of servicing, they shall see that the unit is serviced and placed back into service, or removed from service and replaced with another unit.</p> <p>Use of Respirators</p> <p>This section will specify standard procedures for respirator use. This will include all information and guidance necessary for their proper use and care.</p> <p>A. Where respirators shall be worn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In an active fire area.b. Directly above the fire area.c. In a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills.d. Where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle and dumpster fires.e. Where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (i.e. carbon monoxide during overhaul operations).f. Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present or may be released without warning.g. In any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety. <p>B. Dangerous atmospheres.</p> <p>When a self-contained breathing apparatus is used in atmospheres immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH), standby personnel must be present with suitable rescue equipment. The following session must be taken;</p>

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	<p><u>Rapid Intervention Team</u></p> <p>Firefighters shall always utilize stand-by rescue personnel when fighting structural fires from the interior or entering any hazardous environment. A hazardous environment is defined as an area immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). Standby rescue personnel which will be referred from this point on as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be defined as two (2) firefighters working together as a team on a specific assignment.</p> <p>Unless there is a suspected rescue situation involving the general public, there shall be 2 firefighters in full protective equipment and SCBA outside the structure ready for entry. The following is equipment that shall be in place to assist the RIT in search and rescue.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Full Protective Clothing/with personal alert device.2) SCBA3) Hand Tools4) Charge Hand Line (same diameter or greater as attack line).5) Portable Radio6) Hand Light7) Other Equipment as necessary. <p>Anytime interior structural firefighting is attempted the RIT must be in place prior to the attack team entering the structure and making any knock down on the fire. Once the RIT is setup they shall notify the Incident Commander/Operations Leader.</p> <p>A RIT must be setup at each entry point into a hazardous environment, (example if a crew is entering a front door of a structure a RIT must be standing by and if a crew is entering a side door of a structure a RIT must be in place as well).</p> <p>Rapid Intervention Team members may include Apparatus Operator(s) or Chief Officer(s), so long as the Apparatus Operator(s) and/or Chief Officer(s) is in full protective equipment, has access to SCBA in close proximity.</p> <p>In addition to the above, SCBA shall be worn by all personnel operating at fire incidents above ground, below ground or in any other area which is not, but which may become contaminated by products of combustion or</p>

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	<p>other hazardous substances. In these circumstances only, the SCBA may be worn with the face-piece removed. The wearing of the SCBA in these situations provides that it will be immediately available for use if conditions change, or if personnel are to enter an area where the use of SCBA is required.</p> <p>Command may use discretion to regulate the use of SCBA in those situations where exceptions to the established policy appear necessary.</p> <p>Premature removal of SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul operations when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases, SCBA must be used or the atmosphere changed.</p> <p>In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBA shall be made by Company Officers, with the approval of Command officers, based on an evaluation of conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and when necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Training Program</p> <p><i>Respirator Training.</i> For safe use of any respirator, it is essential that our firefighters be properly instructed in its use and maintenance. Both officers and firefighters shall be so instructed by a qualified instructor. Training shall provide firefighters the opportunity to handle the respirator, have it fitted properly, test its face-piece seal, wear it in normal air for a long familiarity period, and, finally, to wear it in a test atmosphere.</p> <p>The Training Bureau is responsible for conducting training prior to the firefighter utilizing a respirator. Refresher training shall be administered annually.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Inspection, Maintenance, and Care of Respirators</p> <p>All respirators shall be inspected routinely before and after each use. A respirator that is not routinely used but is kept ready for emergency use shall be inspected after each use and at least monthly (see figure 1 & 2), to assure that it is in satisfactory working condition. The respirator manufacturer inspection criteria will be used as the basis for the inspections. A record shall</p>

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7.	<p>be kept of inspection dates and findings for respirators maintained for emergency use.</p> <p>Respirators shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</p> <p>Inspection of self-contained breathing apparatus shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Low pressure hose: Examine the end fitting for damages and freedom of movement. Check hose for holes, cuts or tears.B. Regulator: Prepare the SCBA for use, don the face-piece and breath. The regulator should deliver ample quantities of air without fluttering.C. High pressure hose: Inspect the hose for leakage, cuts, cracks and abrasions. Check the fittings for tightness.D. Alarm whistle:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Open the cylinder valve.2. Listen for audible whistle as the system pressurizes.3. Close the valve.4. Slowly vent air from the system by opening the bypass valve, while observing the regulator gauge.5. Close the bypass valve when all air has been vented.E. Cylinder Valve: Check for leakage or excessive opening torque.F. Pressure gauges: Check the air cylinder and regulator gauges for leakage, impact damage or an excessively scratched lens.G. Back pack: Check the backpack for broken, twisted or excessively frayed straps and defective stitching. <p>Air cylinder replacement</p> <p>Air cylinders should be changed out for fresh cylinders each time the SCBA is used, or when the cylinder pressure gauge indicates a pressure outside of the operational range.</p> <p>When changing cylinders on all breathing apparatus be especially careful not to damage the “O” ring in the high-pressure hose connection.</p>

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8.	<p><i>Replacement or repairs.</i> Replacement or repairs shall be done only by the Equipment Officer with parts designed for the respirator. No attempt shall be made to replace components or to make adjustment or repairs beyond the manufacturer's recommendations. Reducing or admission valves or regulators shall be returned to the manufacturer or to a trained technician for adjustment or repair.</p> <p>Cleaning Procedures</p> <p>For sanitary reasons, the face-piece should be cleaned and disinfected after each use, even if it does not look dirty. A cleaning solution of warm soapy water should be used to thoroughly cleanse the face-piece.</p> <p>Immerse the face-piece in the cleaning solution and gently clean the face-piece with your fingers or a hand towel. Be sure to clean all areas of the face-piece thoroughly.</p> <p><i>Storage requirements.</i> After inspection, cleaning, and necessary repair, respiratory protection equipment shall be carefully stored to protect against dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture, or damaging chemicals.</p>
9.	<p>Medical Evaluation</p> <p>The district will provide medical evaluation to determine the firefighter's ability to use a respirator, before the firefighter is fit tested or required to use the respirator a physical shall be performed.</p> <p>Note All new applicants shall have a medical evaluation and pass all medical tests before acceptance to the fire district.</p> <p>Before a firefighter is required to use any respirator with a negative or positive tight-fitting face-piece, the firefighter must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used.</p> <p><i>Fit instructions.</i> Every respirator wearer shall receive fitting instructions including demonstrations and practice in how the respirator should be worn, how to adjust it, and how to determine if it fits properly. Respirators shall not be worn when conditions prevent a good face seal. Such conditions may be a growth of beard, sideburns, a skull cap that projects under the face-piece, or</p>

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10.	<p>temple pieces on glasses. Also, the absence of one or both dentures can seriously affect the fit of a face-piece.</p> <p><i>Fit Evaluation (firefighter).</i> The face-piece fit, shall be checked by the wearer each time he/she puts on the respirator. This will be done in accordance with the manufacturer's face-piece fitting instructions.</p> <p><i>Fit Evaluation (District).</i> Fit testing will be conducted on an annual basis, this test will be administered by a qualified operator to assure proper protection. This will be done in accordance with the manufacturer's face-piece fitting instructions (see figure 3).</p> <p><i>Hair/apparel.</i> If hair growth or apparel, interfere with a satisfactory fit, then they shall be altered or removed so as to eliminate interference and allow a satisfactory fit.</p> <p><u>Important</u> You must be clean shaven where face-piece seal comes in contact with facial skin.</p> <p>Corrective vision requirements (full-face respirators). Full-face respirators having provisions for optical inserts will be reviewed by the Training Bureau. These inserts when used will be used according to the manufacturers specification. When firefighters must wear optical inserts as part of the face-piece, the face-piece and lenses shall be fitted by qualified individuals to provide good vision, comfort, and a gas-tight seal.</p> <p>The district will provide optical insets for respirators.</p> <p><i>Conventional eye-glasses.</i> Conventional eyeglasses will not be used with full-face respirators. A proper seal cannot be established if the temple bars of eye-glasses extend through the sealing edge of the full face-piece.</p> <p>Breathing Air Quality and Use</p> <p>Air quality. Compressed air and compressed oxygen used for respiration shall be of high purity. Oxygen shall meet the requirements of the United States Pharmacopoeia for medical or breathing oxygen.</p> <p>Breathing air shall meet at least the requirements of the specification for Grade D breathing air as described in Compressed Gas Association Commodity Specification G-7.1-1989.</p>

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	<p>Compressed oxygen shall not be used in supplied-air respirators or in open circuit self-contained breathing apparatus that have previously used compressed air.</p> <p>Oxygen must never be used with airline respirators. Breathing air may be supplied to respirators from cylinders or air compressors.</p> <p>Cylinders shall be tested and maintained as prescribed in the Shipping Container Specification Regulations of the Bureau of Transportation (49 CFR part 178).</p> <p>Breathing gas containers shall be properly marked and stored in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.101.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Program Evaluation</p> <p>The Training Bureau will conduct evaluations of the workplace to ensure that the written respiratory protection program is being properly implemented and to consult firefighter to ensure that they are using the respirators properly. This evaluation shall be conducted on an annual basis.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Record-keeping</p> <p>The district is required to establish and retain written information regarding medical evaluations, fit testing and the respirator program. This information will facilitate firefighter involvement in the respirator program, assist the district in auditing the adequacy of the program, and provide a record for compliance determinations by OSHA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Fit test records shall be retained for respirator users until the next fit test is administered.B. Records of medical evaluations must be retained and made available in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1020. (Note) Medical records will be maintained at district's physician office).C. Training record shall be retained for a 5 years period.D. Monthly SCBA inspection record shall be retained for a 5 years period.E. Breathing Air Quality records shall be retained for a 5 years period. <p>All records will be maintained in the Training Bureau unless noted.</p>