

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 9
Westlake Fire Department

Standard Operating Procedure

Subject: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Effective Date: June 15, 1997

Authorized By: Chief Paul Barker Revised Date: June 15, 2000

I. Purpose

- A. To provide members maximum protection against death or injury due to respiratory threatening atmospheres.
- B. To provide equipment that will enhance the safety of every firefighter entering a visually obscured toxic atmosphere by means of an audible alarm.

II. Policy

- A. All Operations Division apparatus and vehicles subject to emergency response shall carry at least one Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) per company member.
- B. SCBA shall be utilized by all members working in situations where respiratory-threatening atmospheres exist or where such atmospheres are likely to develop.
- C. A Personal Alert Safety System (PASS Alarm) is integrated with each SCBA.
- D. Personnel required to work in a potentially disabling atmosphere or environment will be provided and shall use a PASS alarm.
- E. All members subject to emergency scene response shall be proficient in donning, utilizing, and maintaining SCBA.
- F. SCBA will be worn and ready for use (facepiece hanging from neck) by all members when operating in situations where the atmosphere is not contaminated or oxygen deficient but the possibility exists that such conditions could develop.

III. Procedure

- A. SCBA will be worn with the facepiece in place, using tank air, by all members operating:
 - 1. Inside a structure where a contaminated atmosphere is known to exist.
 - 2. At outdoor incidents that are known to produce toxic smoke and/or gases. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicle fires, dumpster fires, and hazardous materials incidents.
 - 3. In oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

4. In any area that may be subject to explosion or sudden contamination.
 5. On the roof or any floor above a working structure fire.
 6. In any atmosphere where monitoring has shown the carbon monoxide level to exceed 100 parts per million.
 7. In any situation where a contaminated or oxygen-deficient atmosphere is suspected.
 8. It is the responsibility of each Shift Officer to see that SCBA are utilized when needed. The IC, Sector Officers, and Safety Officer will monitor each incident to assure appropriate use of SCBA. A Chief Officer will conduct a thorough investigation of any smoke inhalation or respiratory injury.
 9. When an SCBA is in its bracket behind a seat not in use by a firefighter, it should be secured from falling by passing the seat belt through the harness straps.
- B. PASS Alarms shall be used in accordance with the following:
1. The PASS alarm is integrated into the harness of the SCBA.
 2. The PASS alarm activates anytime an SCBA is turned on.
 3. The PASS device will be checked prior to beginning each shift by activating the red button . Make sure that the device is properly turned off.
 4. If the audible alarm and LED's do not activate, replace the battery.