

FREWSBURG FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICY	Section 4	SAFETY AND HEALTH	
	SUBJECT	SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS	
	Policy 4-11	PAGE 1 OF 3	DATE: 01-01-2023

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines that are compliant with NFPA 1500 and that these guidelines address the safe use of respiratory protection equipment.

II. GUIDELINES

1. The Frewsburg Fire District provides respiratory protection for trained firefighters in the form of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The SCBA is approved and maintained under NFPA 1981 Standard on open-circuit, self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire service for use in atmospheres that may be immediately dangerous to life and health.
2. When engaged in any operation where personnel could encounter atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or a potentially IDLH or where the atmosphere is unknown, Frewsburg Fire District shall require all members to use SCBA.
3. Firefighters shall be trained at least annually in the safe and proper use of respiratory protection equipment that they are authorized to use.
4. Firefighters wearing an SCBA shall be fully protected with all components of the department issued or approved turnout gear including boots, pants, coat, gloves, protective hood, and helmet unless the incident commander deems otherwise.
5. An adequate reserve air supply shall be provided by reserve cylinders or by an on-scene refill capability, or both.
6. Respiratory protection equipment shall be stored in a ready to use condition and shall be protected from damage or exposure to rough handling, excessive heat or cold, moisture, and, or other elements.
7. Personnel using SCBA shall not compromise the protective integrity of the SCBA for any reason when operating in IDLH, potentially IDLH, or unknown atmospheres by removing the face piece or disconnecting any portion of the SCBA that would allow the ambient atmosphere to be breathed.
8. Breathing air used to fill SCBA cylinders shall comply with the requirements of ANSI/CGAG7.1, Commodity specification for air, with minimum air quality of Grade D, a moisture content of no more the 24 parts million, and a maximum particulate level of 5mg/m (3) air.

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9. The fit of the respiratory protection equipment of each new member shall be tested before the members are permitted to use respiratory protection equipment in a hazardous atmosphere. Only members with a properly fitting face piece shall be permitted to function in a hazardous atmosphere with respiratory protection equipment.
10. The face piece seal capability of each member qualified to use respiratory protection equipment shall be verified by qualitative or quantitative fit testing on an annual basis and whenever new types of respiratory protection equipment of face pieces are issued.
11. Records of the face piece fitting tests shall include at least the following information:
 - (a) Name of the member being tested.
 - (b) Type of fitting test performed.
 - (c) Specific make and model of the face pieces tested.
 - (d) Pass/fail results.
12. Nothing shall be allowed to enter or pass through the area where the respiratory protection face piece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fitting test measurement that can be obtained.
13. Members who have a beard or facial hair at any point where the face piece is designed to seal with the face or whose hair could interfere with the operation of the unit shall not be permitted to use respiratory protection in hazardous or potentially hazardous atmospheres. These restrictions shall apply regardless of the specific fitting test, measurement that can be obtained under test conditions.
14. When a member must wear spectacles when wearing respiratory protection, the face piece shall be fitted with spectacles in such a manner that they shall not interfere with the face piece to face seal. Spectacles with any strap or temple bars that pass through the face piece to face seal shall be prohibited.
15. Use of contact lenses shall be permitted during full face piece respiratory protection use, provided that the member has previously demonstrated successful long-term contact lens use.
16. Any head covering that passes between the sealing surface of the respiratory protection face piece and the member's face shall be prohibited. The respiratory protection face piece and head harness straps shall be worn under the protective hoods. The respiratory protection face piece shall be worn under the head protection

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- of any hazardous chemical protective clothing. Helmets shall not interfere with the respiratory protection face piece to face seal.
17. SCBA cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested as required by the manufacturers and the applicable governmental agencies.
 18. In-service SCBA cylinders shall be stored fully charged, inspected prior to filling according to NIOSH requirements, CGA standards, and manufacturers' recommendations.
 19. Only personnel trained or certified are permitted to fill SCBA bottles using the cascade system.
 20. During filling of SCBA cylinders, personnel and operators shall be protected from catastrophic failure of the cylinder.
 21. PASS devices shall meet the requirements of NFPA1982, standard on personal alert safety systems. Each member shall be provided with, use and activate his or her PASS devices in all emergency situations that could jeopardize that person's safety due to atmospheres that could be IDLH, incidents that could result in entrapment, structural collapse of any type, or as directed by the incident commander or the incident safety officer.
 22. Pass devices shall be tested at least weekly and prior to each use and shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.