

301 Use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

I. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Donning/Doffing Guide

Minor adaptations will have to be made dependent upon actual method selected for donning: over-the-head, over-the-coat, from-the-jump seat, etc.

A. Donning:

Check cylinder gauge.

* Must be at least 4050 psi. (2000 on low pressure cylinders)

Open cylinder gauge.

* If the low-air warning device is not audible, remove the SCBA from service.

* Check PASS device operation

Check regulator pressure.

* Should be within 10% with cylinder gauge.

Don pack frame/harness assembly.

* Tighten all straps.

Don mask.

* Tighten straps from the bottom up.

* Check Seal

Pull hood over head.

* Feel for bare skin and adjust as necessary.

Don your helmet.

* Some helmet designs require the helmet strap to be placed around the wearer's neck prior to step six (6).

Dock the demand valve into the face mask.

Check for positive pressure flow.

* Gently place two fingers under mask seal to allow a positive flow of air to escape.

Check for bypass valve operation.

*Open bypass (counterclockwise). A constant flow of air should flow into the mask.

Don your gloves.

Ask for a visual inspection of potential problems.

B. Doffing:

Doff your gloves.

Doff demand valve.

Turn off cylinder gauge.

Bleed air pressure.

* Utilize the bypass valve.

* Then shut

Return demand valve to pouch

* If pouch is unavailable, pull up on harness.

Doff helmet.

Lower hood around neck.

* If re-entry is not anticipated, the hood may be returned to an alternate location.

Doff mask.

* Fully extend straps. Place in a secure location.

Doff packframe.

* Fully extend straps.

Turn Personal Alert Device to OFF.

C. Securing SCBA for the next use:

1. Cylinder should be replaced immediately.
2. Mask should be cleaned immediately.
3. The entire SCBA should be inspected and cleaned prior to placing back on the apparatus.

- II. The following procedure is to be implemented in the apparatus check to ensure that all SCBA's are in proper working condition.
 - A. Visually inspect complete apparatus for worn or aging parts and damaged components.
 - B. Check latest cylinder hydrostatic test date to ensure it is current within 5 years.
 - C. Visually inspect cylinder for large dents or gouges. Cylinders which show signs of exposure to high heat or flame, such as paint turned brown or black, decals charred or missing, gauge lens melted or elasto-meric bumper distorted, shall be tagged out of service.
 - D. Make sure the bypass valve is closed.
 - E. Check cylinder pressure gauge for "FULL" reading. If the cylinder pressure is less than 4050 PSI (2000 psi on low pressure cylinders), replace with a fully charged cylinder.
 - F. Open cylinder valve slowly, observing the harness mounted pressure gauge to again check that the cylinder is fully charged. The low air alarm should sound momentarily and shut off. No air should be escaping from the apparatus.
 - G. The cylinder pressure gauge and the harness mounted pressure gauge should have readings within 10% of each other. If they are not, the apparatus is to be tagged out of service.
 - H. Close the cylinder valve. The needle indicator on the harness mounted pressure gauge should not fall more than 1/8 on the gauge per minute.
 - I. Gradually reduce the system pressure by slightly opening the bypass valve to slowly vent air from the system. Check to see that the low air alarm sounds as the needle enters the RED sector of the pressure gauge below the "1/4" marking. If the alarm does not sound, then the apparatus should be tagged out of service.
- III. Out of Service Breathing Apparatus - Any apparatus not in full working condition shall be:
 - A. Tagged out of service.

- B. Returned to St9-1 (Dist 9) or St1-1 (Dist 1).
- C. An Equipment Repair Request sheet detailing the exact problem and history shall be forwarded to the Battalion Chief.