

# Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Association

## Model Operating Procedures

### *SCBA Use*

#### **Purpose**

The intent of this SCBA standard is provide clear guidelines for the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) by Fire Department personnel operating in a toxic or contaminated atmosphere, typically referred to as the *Hazard Zone*. SCBAs when properly used, prevent respiratory contact or contamination with the products of combustion, super heated gases, toxic gasses, and all other potentially injurious atmospheric contaminants.

All Fire Department personnel who are expected to respond and operate in a toxic or contaminated atmosphere, will be equipped with a self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and trained in its proper use and care. Members will be able to demonstrate a non-leaking seal between the face and the facemask of the device. Individual members will be accountable for compliance with this requirement.

#### **S.C.B.A. Equipment**

Each member who has completed a documented qualification process in the use of SCBA and entry into the *Hazard Zone*, will be issued a personal facemask. The individual member will be accountable for the facemask and responsible for its maintenance and cleaning.

Breathing apparatus and spare cylinders will be stocked on the fire apparatus, one for each assigned seat. Each firefighter of the assigned company will conduct a pre-use check of the SCBA prior to entry into the *Hazard Zone*.

Any SCBA not functioning properly will be red tagged and taken out of service. The SCBA must be thoroughly evaluated, repaired as necessary by a qualified technician, and tested prior to being returned to service.

#### **S.C.B.A Use**

SCBA shall be used by all personnel operating in any of the following environments or situations:

- A working interior fire.
- A location above a working fire.
- In a potentially explosive atmosphere such as natural gas or LPG leaks or fires.
- Vehicle fires.
- Any unventilated confined space.
- Any atmosphere suspected to be oxygen deficient or contaminated with toxic or superheated gasses.
- Any atmosphere that could become oxygen deficient or toxic without warning.

The use of SCBA will not be discontinued until authorized by the IC. Prior to discontinued use, fire areas must be thoroughly ventilated, and ventilation must continue as long as personnel are operating in the space. If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, the use of SCBA will be continued until the atmosphere is established to be safe by testing.