

BODEGA BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

WRITTEN BY: HILL

APPROVED BY: *[Signature]*

NUMBER: 26

**SUBJECT: SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS
(SCBA)**

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Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) are to be worn by firefighters when entering any building or area where the potential for an IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life of Health) atmosphere may be present. Hazardous atmosphere includes, but is not limited to, the presence of smoke, toxic fumes or poisonous fumes, chemicals and irritants, or oxygen deficient atmospheres (confined space). SCBAs shall be worn when fighting vehicle and dumpster fires.

All firefighting personnel shall be clean-shaven where the facepiece makes contact with the skin so a continual and effective air seal will be maintained. All firefighting personnel shall be "fit tested" every year.

SCBA air cylinders shall be replaced or filled whenever the air pressure falls below the following limits:

3000-PSI BOTTLES:	2700 PSI
4500-PSI BOTTLES:	4150 PSI

The Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) alarm device on each SCBA unit shall be tested for proper operation after every use:

- 1) Press the Manual PASS alarm button (Red) on the ICM unit and confirm there is an audible alert and the red warning light is flashing. Push - Reset / Off to silence the alarm.
- 2) Allow the SCBA unit to remain motionless for 18 seconds. Confirm the first of three progressively louder audible alerts and that the red warning light is flashing. Push - Reset / Off to silence the alarm.

If the PASS alarm is defective, the SCBA is to be taken out-of-service. The duty Captain is to be notified and an Equipment Problem Report completed and routed to the Vehicle Maintenance Officer

After use on a call incident or training, the SCBA shall be inspected and cleaned. Per MSA manufacturer recommendations, the following procedures are to be followed:

Harness

- Check for deterioration, damage, missing buckles, torn flaps.
- Wash surface dirt using a mild soap placed on a dampened, clean sponge or shop rag.
- Wipe dry with a clean, damp cloth.
- Air-dry. No direct sunlight or heat.
- Store with straps in full-loosened condition.

Carrier

- Check for cracks, distortion.
- Wash surface dirt using a mild soap placed on a dampened, clean sponge or shop rag.
- Confirm hose fittings are tight and checked for cuts or deterioration.
- Confirm Audi-Larm bell is secure on the cylinder valve.
- Confirm air cylinder coupling nut threads are not dirty or marred and the "O" ring is in place and in good condition.

Air Cylinder

- Check the body, valve, and air gauge for damage or dents.
- Check that the air cylinder threads are not marred or dirty.
- When the air cylinder is opened, listen for leaks from the air valve or hoses. Analog gauge should not lose pressure.
- When filling an air cylinder, confirm the hydrostatic test date is current (within 5 years).
- Clean with damp, clean cloth and soap.
- Wipe down with a clean, damp rag.
- Confirm the air cylinder is secure in the backplate.

ICM / PASS Unit

- Check for cracks, damage, missing screws, and loose covers.
- Clean with clean, damp sponge or rag with mild soap. No use of solvent solutions.
- Periodically replace battery. Confirm the gasket is sealed when reattaching the cover.

Firehawk MMR

- Clean with a clean, damp sponge or rag with mild soap. No use of solvent solutions.
- Depress the purge valve in and out several times to confirm operation.
- Operate the bypass valve. Close, but not too tight.
- Periodically, place a light coat of Vaseline lubricant on the "O" ring and face adapter assembly. Wipe off excess lubricant with a clean, dry cloth.

Face Piece (Mask)

- Check the general condition of the rubber frame for cuts / deterioration.

- Check lens for cracking or warping.
- Remove the voice box prior to cleaning. Reattach after cleaning and confirm proper operation. Periodically replace battery.
- Clean rubber frame with a germicidal cleaner. No use of an alcohol base.
- Remove the nose cup and rinse the nose cup and facepiece in warm water (no more than 120 degrees F.).
- Depress the exhalation valve in running water. Press in and out a few times to confirm proper operation.
- Wipe off excess water with a clean, dry cloth.
- Replace the nose cup.
- Air-dry. No direct sunlight or heater.
- Store with straps in full-loosened position.

All BBFPD fire suppression personnel shall be tested on a semi-annual basis for proper donning of an SCBA unit. Per NFPA 1001, fire suppression personnel shall completely don an SCBA unit, including facepiece, hood, helmet, and gloves within 60 seconds.

The testing procedures shall coincide with an approved evaluation form. The SCBA evaluation form shall be maintained in each employee's training file.