

Operating Guidelines

Section: Personal Protection

Subject: SCBA Care & Maintenance

Policy #: 208

Date Issued: February 2, 2016

Date Revised: October 3, 2017

Purpose

To establish policy and procedures to protect Firefighters during training and while performing their duties at emergency situations and also for the maintenance and testing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

Procedure

208.1

All SCBA will be inspected and checked once a month, as established by the Deputy Chief, each time it has been used and after each time the compressed air tank is changed, to be sure it is fully functional.

208.2

All air in the tanks will be discharged every 12 months, if the tank has not been used within that time frame.

208.3

All SCBA will be fully washed and dried after each use when they have been soiled.

208.4

Ensure gauges are operational and read the same.

208.5

Ensure low pressure warning devices are operating.

208.6

Ensure hose connections are tight, with no apparent leakage (feel or listen).

208.7

Visually check the harness for defects and ensure straps are fully extended, ready for donning.

208.8

Check the mask, activated first stage regulator and emergency by-pass valves for operation and return to "OFF" operating position.

208.9

Inspect face piece assembly, head spider, inhalation and exhalation valve.

208.10

Inspect cylinder assembly for condition of cylinder, gauges, valve, air and bottle expiry date.

208.11

Inspect back panel and harness.

208.12

Check battery level on PASS and if required change batteries.

208.13

Fire Scene Examination:

- Close valve, remove used cylinder and place away from full cylinders, protecting valves and threads from damage with a thread protector
- Check pressure on replacement cylinder, crack valve open and close, to clear any debris, place in back pack and secure
- Fully open cylinder valve, check gauge
- Inform Firefighter that operation is complete

208.14

Removal from Service:

- Tag equipment as defective
- Place cylinder and defective SCBAs aside from other in-service cylinders and SCBA
- Inform the Officer-in-Charge

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all Officers and Firefighters, to follow these policies and procedures in order to properly care for the SCBA.