



Wyckoff Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline

101.7.1

Title: Qualifications for Wearing Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Date Issued: July 2, 2002
Date Last Revised: 5/19/09
Revision Number: 1
Total Pages: 1

PURPOSE: Firefighters often work in atmospheres which are considered to be Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH). Conditions may have the potential for the firefighter to encounter air born toxins which, when inhaled, could cause acute or chronic effects on the respiratory system. The single most important piece of safety gear that a firefighter will utilize is, arguably, the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Proper use of this device will help to minimize any respiratory dangers that the firefighter may encounter when engaged in battle.

Donning an SCBA is not a normal life event and simply using the pack can create various difficulties. Respiratory and heart rates increase when wearing the SCBA for a variety of reasons. There is the increased weight of the device, increased profile of the firefighter with an added “appendage” worn on the back, and the stress of the situation in which you are operating. The end result is adding undue stress to the firefighter’s body.

To minimize the injuries that may be incurred as a result of the use of an SCBA, it has been found that proper training and physical conditioning are paramount

OBJECTIVE: The Wyckoff Fire Department has developed an aggressive Respiratory Protection Program with the primary function being to keep firefighters safe. The following guideline will aid the firefighter in knowing the minimum training and medical clearances needed in order to be endorsed by the Department as a recognized SCBA user.

GUIDELINE:

1. The Firefighter must hold a valid Firefighter 1 certificate, issued by NJDFS
2. The Firefighter may not have facial hair that interferes with the seal of the mask or valve function
3. SCBA Qualified as per the Wyckoff Fire Department Respiratory Protection Program.
4. Complete the Mask Fit Test annually.
5. Must attend and participate in a hands on drill covering the emergency procedures to be utilized while wearing an SCBA.
6. Must attend and participate in one S.C.B.A. dill, other than the above mentioned emergency operations drill.
7. Attend a refresher course in the operation of the SCBA.