

	Terryville Fire Department Best Practices	
	<u>Subject</u> Use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	BP# 1-07
	<u>Authority</u> Chief of Department	Initiated 8/1/13 Revised

A. PURPOSE

1. This procedure establishes guidelines for the use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) by the members of the Terryville Fire Department.

B. PROCEDURES

1. SCBA will be worn on any incident where there is a chance that toxic gases may be present or when the atmosphere may be oxygen deficient.
2. All firefighters entering the hazardous environment will be masked up. Any firefighters that are not masked up will remain outside the hazardous environment.
3. Probationary firefighters that have not yet completed Section 1 of the department's Probationary Training Program shall not mask up under any circumstances. Probationary Firefighters must successfully complete the Firefighter I course and be certified in the bailout system before they will be allowed to mask up within a structure.
4. SCBA will remain on until hazardous gases have been removed. **No unmasked personnel shall enter the hazardous environment.**
5. All personnel will remain masked up until the area has a safe reading in all fields via the multi-gas meter.
6. When wearing SCBA, members shall ensure that it is worn correctly, to include the buckling of waist straps.

C. MAINTENANCE

1. Each SCBA shall be inspected on a weekly basis and after each use.
2. Each user shall be trained in the cleaning, operations checks, and proper disinfecting of the units.
3. Minor repairs, adjustments and replacement of parts shall be performed by designated committee members.

D. FIT TESTING

1. Fit testing shall be conducted annually to ensure that a proper seal of the face piece can be established.
2. Items such as glasses, beards, or other facial hair that may cause an improper face piece seal are prohibited.
3. As part of the operational check, it is imperative that firefighters check for a proper seal each time the SCBA is donned.

NOTE: OSHA REQUIREMENTS

1910.156 (f)(1)(ii) Approved self contained breathing apparatus with full face piece, or approved helmet or hood configuration, shall be provided to and worn by fire brigade members while working inside buildings or confined spaces where toxic products or combustion or an oxygen deficiency may be present. Such apparatus shall also be worn during emergency situations involving toxic substances.