

Emergency Operations

Book:	2- Routine Operations
Chapter	III – Equipment Operations
Subject	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
Code	2- III – 1
Revised	5/01/2003

1.01 Purpose

To provide proper respiratory protection to Jersey Village Emergency Services personnel through the utilization of self- contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)

1.02 Policy

- A. It is the policy of the Jersey Village Emergency Services that all personnel expected or likely to respond to, and function in areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with, and trained in, the proper use and maintenance of the self-contained breathing apparatus.
- B. Jersey Village Emergency Services personnel shall utilize only SCBAs, which are of the approved, positive pressure type.
- C. Jersey Village Emergency Services personnel shall utilize SCBAs as part of the overall protective clothing system.
- D. Only pure, compressed air, meeting the standards of the NFPA and Texas Fire Commission shall be used to fill the air cylinders.
- E. SCBA air cylinders shall be pressurized to between 4400 and 4500 psi. The minimum acceptable air pressure for a SCBA air cylinder is 4300 psi.
- F. All SCBAs on front line apparatus shall be inspected daily.
- G. All other SCBAs shall be inspected on a weekly schedule.
- H. Daily and weekly inspections of SCBAs shall be recorded on the proper form. The completed forms shall be maintained for a period of three years.
- I. SCBAs or their component parts, which are observed to be defective, or damaged, shall be removed from service immediately, and a suitable replacement SCBA or part shall be provided.
- J. Jersey Village Emergency Services shall contract with an outside firm to test all department SCBAs on an annual basis. The outside firm shall be certified by the manufacture of the SCBA, and the Texas Fire Commission. All tests shall meet the NFPA standards.

1.03 Responsibility

- A. The Fire Chief has the overall responsibility for providing a proper respiratory protection system within the Jersey Village Emergency Services.

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- B. All Jersey Village Emergency Services employees and members are directly responsible for their personal safety and shall utilize and maintain self-contained breathing apparatus in accordance with this policy.

1.04 Cleaning and Returning to Service

- A. SCBAs shall be cleaned and the facepiece shall be disinfected after each use.
 - 1. The facepiece shall be washed with mild soap and water and thoroughly rinsed with clean warm water. The facepiece shall be dried with clean wiping cloths or disposable towels.
 - 2. After washing, facepieces will be disinfected with cleaner/sanitizer solution. Alcohol should not be used as a disinfecting agent.
 - 3. Facepieces should be stored in such a manner that any remaining moisture can drain and never stored in a box or protective pouch while still wet.
 - 4. All air cylinders shall be properly recharged to the correct pressure.
 - 5. The backframe assembly will be washed and cleaned as needed.

1.05 Inspection Procedure

- A. Clean and visually inspect the complete SCBA
 - 1. As needed, clean with warm water and a mild soap solution.
 - 2. Inspect for worn or frayed harness straps, webbing and damaged components.
- B. Check air cylinder for dents or gouges and remove from service if any are found.
- C. Check each air cylinder pressure gauge for “FULL” indication and refill if below the minimum amount stated above.
- D. Check to ensure the reducer hose coupling is hand tight to the cylinder valve outlet.
- E. Check to ensure that the regulator purge knob is closed (pointer on knob up) and depress the center air saver switch on top of the regulator.
- F. Open cylinder valve fully by rotating the knob counterclockwise and then back clockwise ¼ turn.
 - 1. The Vibra-Alert alarm should actuate and then stop.
 - 2. There should be no airflow from the regulator at this time.
- G. Listen for air leaks. Remove from service if leaks are detected.
- H. Pak-Alert
 - 1. Manually activate the Pak-Alert by depressing the red button to ensure that it will go to alarm mode.
 - 2. Reset by pushing the yellow button twice.
 - 3. The Pak-Alert should go into pre-alarm in approximately 20 seconds if the SCBA is not moved.
 - 4. Wait another 8-10 seconds without moving the SCBA to allow the Pak-Alert to go into full alarm mode.
 - 5. Reset by pushing the yellow button twice.
 - 6. Remove from service if the Pak-Alert is not working in both the manual and automatic modes.

- I. Check the remote gauge pressure reading to see that it is the same as the cylinder gauge reading.
- J. Don the facepiece or hold it to the face and inhale to start the flow of air. Breathe normally to ensure proper operation.
- K. Remove the facepiece and ascertain that the air is flowing freely from the facepiece.
- L. Fully depress the center of the air saver switch on the top of the regulator and release. The airflow should stop.
- M. Momentarily rotate the purge valve knob $\frac{1}{2}$ turn counterclockwise (pointer on knob down) to ensure that air is flowing freely from the regulator.
- N. Shutdown procedure for SCBA.
 - 1. Close the cylinder valve by rotating the knob clockwise.
 - 2. Open the purge valve slowly (pointer on the knob down) to vent the residual air from the system.
 - 3. The Vibra-Alert should actuate as the pressure drops below the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark on the remote gauge.
 - 4. Return the purge valve knob to the closed position (pointer on knob up) when the airflow stops.
 - 5. Reset the Pak-Alert by pressing the yellow button twice.
- O. Check the gasket on the regulator to assure that it is in place and not damaged.
- P. Return SCBA to apparatus bracket.