

# New Durham Fire & Rescue Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 302 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

**PURPOSE:** To ensure the safety of personnel in areas of atmospheric contamination.

**SCOPE:** All operations in hazardous environments involving atmospheric contaminants.

**SPECIFICS:**

- Use of SCBA is to avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, super heated gases, toxic products or other hazardous contaminants.
- SCBA shall be used by all personnel operating:
  - In a contaminated atmosphere
  - In an atmosphere which may suddenly become contaminated
  - In an atmosphere which oxygen is deficient
  - In an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient
- SCBA use shall only be discontinued by order of the Incident Commander.
- All personnel responding to and functioning in areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with self-containing breathing apparatus (SCBA) and trained in its proper use and maintenance.
- Members shall maintain a non-leaking face piece-to-skin seal with the mask. Facial hair shall not be allowed at points where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the face. Individual members shall be accountable for compliance with this requirement.
- All SCBA is to be checked for functionality at each truck check, after each use, and at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state. Each crew member will be responsible for the proper use and function of that SCBA. If an SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, red tagged, reported (in writing) and replaced immediately.

DATE: 2013-05-14

- If respiratory safety is questionable, SCBA use shall be maintained until a safe atmosphere is established by testing. The Incident Commander shall be responsible for this determination.