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Article 203
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Section 203.1: Purpose

The purpose is to establish guidelines to indicate the proper operation, use, training, and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in order to ensure the safety of all Harrison Fire Department Personnel.

Section 203.2: Scope

The Harrison Fire Department will provide full personal protection for its members during fire and emergency operations. Recognizing the dangers of exposure to heat and flames, to the toxic products of combustion, and to other hazardous materials, the Department provides full protective gear to all members who may be exposed to such respiratory hazards. This protective gear includes positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus with PASS alarms. All Harrison Fire Department personnel are required to use an SCBA whenever operating in an atmosphere suspected of being “Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health” (IDLH). All personnel involved in any phase of interior structural firefighting, overhaul (24 hours post fire), or investigations, are required to wear SCBA in conjunction with a complete set of PPE. PPE can be supplemented during overhaul operations provided that all exposed skin areas are covered. Use of SCBA is ***required*** at ***all*** firefighting operations, including those operations involving vehicles, dumpsters, rubbish, Carbon Monoxide (CO) and other gas or odor investigation calls. This includes inside operations, and also outside positions where personnel may be exposed to smoke or other potentially toxic IDLH conditions. During these incidents, positive pressure SCBA must be worn at all times.

Section 203.3


It is the policy of the Harrison Fire Department that all personnel responding to emergency calls shall be equipped with, and trained in the proper use and maintenance of the self-contained breathing apparatus because they are likely to respond to and function in, areas of atmospheric contamination.

Section 203.4

All personnel shall be fit tested for the proper size of SCBA mask annually and will be issued a mask of the appropriate size. Facial hair shall not be allowed at areas where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the skins surfaces around the face. Such facial hair is considered unsafe.

Section 203.5

Fire Department personnel shall utilize only SCBA’s which are of the approved, positive pressure type, and have been certified (hydrostatically tested). Fire Department personnel shall

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utilize SCBA's as part of their overall personal protective equipment. Only pure, certified, compressed air shall be used to fill the air cylinders of Fire Department SCBA's. Cylinders shall be filled and maintained in accordance with these guidelines. SCBA air cylinders shall be pressurized between 4000 and 4500 psi. The minimum acceptable air pressure for a stored SCBA air cylinder is 4000 psi. Any time a cylinder is found with less than 4000 psi, it will be recharged.

Section 203.6


At the beginning of each shift, all employees **SHALL** check PSI in their SCBA, and conduct user seal checks on their SCBA face piece. Members shall use either the positive or negative pressure checks. Fire Department SCBA's shall be inspected during each training session, before and after each use. Inspection shall consist of full function test including donning mask and drawing air. Personnel shall check that all gauges and electronics are in proper working order. Additionally, each breathing apparatus will be cleaned after each use and stored in a "ready-to-use" fashion, which includes all straps being fully extended, untwisted, and properly stored on each apparatus. SCBA's and face piece **SHALL** be cleaned with clean warm water. At no time, shall cleaning products containing alcohol, hydrocarbons, or solvents be used to clean SCBA's or face piece. SCBA's or their component parts, which are observed to be worn, defective, or damaged, shall be removed from service immediately, and a suitable replacement SCBA or part shall be provided as soon as possible. It shall be the responsibility of each member to document required repairs, or damage on the SCBA repair form located in Fire Manager Forms Section.

Section 203.7

SCBA's and their spare air cylinders shall be secured to Fire Department apparatus and vehicles in such a manner as to be readily available for quick operations; yet shall be well secured enough to prevent injuries to personnel or accidental damage to apparatus and/or equipment. Fire Department policy shall be to provide a minimum of one (1) SCBA and one (1) spare air cylinder for each member assigned to a particular piece of fire apparatus or emergency vehicle.

Section 203.8

Only personnel in good health and physical condition shall don a SCBA. It is each person's responsibility to be physically and mentally prepared to enter confined, hazardous, and stressful areas. If at any time, you feel you are overexerted, ill, mentally or physically unable to carry out assignments, notify Incident Command/Officer or Acting Officer immediately. **NEVER GO INTO A HAZARD IF YOU ARE NOT PHYSICALLY AND/OR MENTALLY PREPARED.** Each person will use their SCBA under conditions specified by these guidelines, and in accordance with the training they receive. In addition, the SCBA shall not be used in a manner for which it is not certified by its manufacturer.

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Section 203.9

When donning a SCBA, members will always work in pairs. Apparatus and equipment can and will malfunction without notice. Under no circumstances will any member of Harrison Fire Department enter a confined or contaminated area by themselves.

Under no circumstances will any part of the SCBA and/or its associated components be tampered with, modified, or otherwise adjusted for any reason than its intended use, nor will any safety features be bypassed. Only certified personnel shall repair the SCBA.

Section 203.10: Responsibility

The Fire Chief or his designee has the overall responsibility for providing a proper respiratory protection system within the Department and is responsible for overall management of the respiratory protection system.

The appointed SCBA officer is responsible for ensuring that SCBA's are properly maintained and repaired, and that an adequate number of SCBA's are available for use by departmental personnel.

The Officer and Training Officer are responsible for ensuring that Harrison Fire Department personnel meet minimum training standards relating to the operation of SCBA's and that there is adequate, regular and standardized SCBA training provided to each member of the fire department.

Incident Commanders have the overall responsibility, at emergency incidents, for ensuring that proper respiratory protection is both provided to, and utilized by, Fire Department personnel.


All personnel are responsible for ensuring that these Fire Department SCBA policies are adhered to at all times by all members.

All Fire Department members are directly responsible for their personal safety and shall utilize and maintain self-contained breathing apparatus in accordance with this policy and keeping proficient with the use of SCBA's.


Each Fire Department member shall be responsible for the proper donning/doffing, operation, and cleaning of SCBA's, outlined in this policy. This responsibility includes the reporting of worn or faulty equipment associated with SCBA's.

Section 203.11: Exposure Risk Reduction

In an effort to reduce exposures, after operating at any fire the following **SHALL** be adhered to:

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- a) SCBA shall be worn during any fire operation, including overhaul and investigations.
- b) All personnel shall de-con their fire gear after operating at any fire, by a light fog spray from apparatus on scene, prior to returning to your station.
- c) All areas of exposed skin should be wiped off with “baby” wipes immediately upon doffing SCBA and fire gear. Special attention should be made to the face, and neck area.
- d) Hands and face shall be cleaned prior to eating or drinking at the scene of any fire.
- e) All equipment and hose shall be cleaned prior to returning items to apparatus.
- f) All personnel should shower immediately upon returning to their respective stations.
- g) All personal clothing/uniforms shall be washed immediately upon returning from any fire.
- h) Fire gear **SHALL** not be worn in the living quarters at either station.
- i) Apparatus cabs **SHALL** be deconned upon returning to quarters following any fire.
- j) Upon returning to stations, all personnel **SHALL** fill out an exposure form.

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Revision History

<Use the table below to track changes made to the document. Be sure to include the date the document was created/updated. Be sure to sufficiently define changes to facilitate version review and document update approvals.>

Date	Author	Change Descriptions
8/8/16	D. Oettel	<i>Revised draft</i>
10/14/16	A.Hopkins	<i>Added a bullet point to, Operations #4</i>
1/11/17	M. Rimroth	<i>Updated pics of hand signals</i>
1/12/17	D. Helcher	<i>Added section on approach</i>
1/31/2017	Chief Hursong	<i>Final review and approval</i>

Fire Chief's SOG Approval

By signing below, the signee indicates that they have reviewed and agree and approve the SOG for implementation and use within the City of Harrison Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Printed Name	Signature	Title	Date
Chief William R. Hursong	On file	Fire Chief, City of Harrison	1/31/2017