

**GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Standard Operating Guideline**

<b>GUIDELINE: BREATHING EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>SECTION: 121</b>
WRITTEN 08/13/1990	REVIEWED	REVISED 08/25/2021	Page 40

**POLICY**

1. It is the policy of the Glasgow Fire Department that all personnel expected or likely to respond to, and function in an area of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with, and trained in, the proper use and maintenance of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
2. All personnel shall utilize SCBA when encountering the following emergencies:
  - a. Above ground level
  - b. Below ground level
  - c. Contaminated atmosphere
  - d. Situations where it is likely that the atmosphere may become contaminated.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The Chief of the Glasgow Fire Department (GFD) or his designee will be responsible for this program.
2. The program will be evaluated on at least an annual basis.
3. Each member of the Suppression Division shall be accountable for their assigned SCBA and check the SCBA for condition at the beginning of each shift and after each use, or at any other time it may be necessary to render the equipment in a ready state of condition.
4. If a SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, tagged, reported to the immediate supervisor, and sent to Station #1 for repairs.

**SCBA USE IN CONTAMINATED AREAS**

1. When wearing the SCBA in contaminated atmospheres or in environments suspected to be contaminated, it shall be operated in the Positive Pressure mode
2. Resist the temptation to prematurely remove SCBA during a fire situation. Always consider the respiratory hazards which exist in ordinary as well as the extraordinary fire situation. Remember that carbon monoxide levels increase during overhaul due to incomplete combustion of smoldering materials.
3. SCBA'S shall always be required during any firefighting or overhaul operations inside a structure, and frequently outside a structure. The SCBA shall be worn when operating in an IDLH atmosphere.
4. An air monitor shall be used to test the air inside and out to ensure that the air has safe levels of O<sub>2</sub> (19.5-23%) CO (<35ppm) H<sub>2</sub>s (<10ppm) and Hcn (<4.5ppm), before taking off SCBA at an incident.
5. If an SCBA becomes contaminated, the SCBA needs to be decontaminated

**GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Standard Operating Guideline**

<b>GUIDELINE: BREATHING EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>SECTION: 121</b>
WRITTEN 08/13/1990	REVIEWED	REVISED 08/25/2021	Page 41

at the scene and precautions need to be taken to prevent anyone else from becoming exposed to the SCBA. The Incident Commander will be in charge of this operation.

6. Glasgow Fire Department personnel will try to decontaminate the SCBA. If after decontamination there is still chemicals present on the SCBA, then a hazardous material disposal company will be called to collect the SCBA.
7. Personnel will operate in teams of two or more.
  - a. At least two team members enter the IDLH atmosphere and will stay in visual or voice contact with each other at all times.
  - b. Communication will be maintained between each team through visual, audible, physical, safety rope, electronic or any other means to stay in contact.
  - c. At least one team of two or more will be located outside the IDLH atmosphere.

**PROFICIENCY**

All Suppression Division personnel will be trained in the use of SCBA's and will demonstrate their ability to correctly don and doff the SCBA.

**CUSTODY OF SCBA**

The Chief of the Glasgow Fire Department or his/her designee shall take custody of any SCBA that is worn by a member of the Glasgow Fire Department that sustains an injury or there is a fatality of the user. The SCBA will be kept in custody until an investigation is complete.

**ALTERATION OF SCBA**

No Glasgow Fire Department employee shall perform any alteration to the SCBA's form, fit or function which would violate NFPA 1981.

**AIR-PACK MASK CLEANING**

All Glasgow Fire Department Personnel will clean and maintain the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) per manufacture's recommendations.

**OPERATION OF BREATHING AIR COMPRESSOR**

1. Operators are fully responsible for following all rules and regulations of operations, for all equipment and for following all safety procedures.
2. The Glasgow Fire Department personnel will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the compressor system. Any operator who finds any problem with the compressor system or its operation, shall tag it out and

# GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Guideline

<b>GUIDELINE: BREATHING EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>SECTION: 121</b>
WRITTEN 08/13/1990	REVIEWED	REVISED 08/25/2021	Page 42

report the same to his/her officer, who shall report it to the Chief or his/her designee.

3. Make sure compressor is switched "OFF" before putting hands inside cabinet.
4. If compressor is to be run longer than five (5) minutes, open door to outside of building or in summer, make sure air conditioner is on.
5. While compressor is running, periodically check oil pressure, drain system, filter warning lights.
6. When using fill station to fill air bottles or cascade tanks complete the "FILL STATION LOG". See attached copy.
7. Always check and record FULL RATED PSI and HYDROSTATIC TEST DATE before filling any air bottles. Steel-five (5) years; aluminum-five (5) years, composite-three (3) years.
8. Never attempt to fill a damaged bottle (i.e., paint, valve, gauge, etc.).
9. When finished, close all valves, bleed fill station regulator to "ZERO", clean up compressor and fill station rooms and turn power off.
10. All Glasgow Fire Department personnel shall be trained on this system before attempting to use the system.
11. The Chief of the Glasgow Fire Department will have the systems air quality tested by a third-party tester quarterly.
12. If the air quality test does not meet air quality specifications, the system shall be discontinued until repairs are made, and the air quality is verified to meet specifications.
13. Any cylinders suspected of not meeting air specifications shall be emptied and purged.
14. Testing standard shall fall under NFPA 1989.

### AIR PACK BOTTLE FILLING PROCEDURE

1. Check air pack bottle's hydrostatic test date. **If out of date do not fill bottle**, but tag bottle out of service. If bottle belongs to the Glasgow Fire Department, then notify officer. If bottle is owned by a county department, tell the person with that department that we are unable to fill the air bottle because of an out-of-date hydrostatic test. Steel-five (5) years, aluminum-five (5) years, composite-three (3) years
2. Put on safety glasses and hearing protection.
3. Insert air bottle into safety sleeve.
4. Open bottle to remove any dirt, etc. Connect fill hose to air bottle and hand-tighten.
5. Close bleeder valve.
6. Open air bottle valve to fully open position.

# GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Standard Operating Guideline

<b>GUIDELINE: BREATHING EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>SECTION: 121</b>
WRITTEN 08/13/1990	REVIEWED	REVISED 08/25/2021	Page 43

7. Close door to fill station.
8. Open the valve of the cascade cylinder that has the least pressure but has more pressure than the SCBA cylinder.
9. Fill the bottle slowly, about 300 to 600 PSI per minute. Close the cascade cylinder valve when the pressure of the SCBA and the cascade cylinder equalizes.  
NOTE: if the SCBA cylinder is not completely full, open the valve on the cascade cylinder with the next highest pressure.
10. Repeat step # 8 until the SCBA cylinder is completely full. If cascade system is low and cannot fill bottles turn on compressor.
11. Close fill station valve and open door.
12. Turn off bottle and open bleeder valve and slowly let off pressure in line.
13. Disconnect hose and remove bottle.
14. Record into logbook, date and name of person filling bottle; department the bottle is from. See attached fill log.

### AIR PACKS SAFETY CHECKS

All Glasgow Fire Department Personnel will perform safety checks on the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus per manufacture's recommendations.

### SCBA DAILY CHECKS

Refer to the Respirator Protection Program located at each station.

### RESPIRATOR USER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Refer to the Respirator Protection Program located at each station.

### FIT TESTING

Refer to the Respirator Protection Program located at each station.

### MEDICAL

Refer to the Respirator Protection Program located at each station.

### RESPIRATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM ANNUAL REVIEW

Refer to the Respirator Protection Program located at each station.