



MASON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

TITLE: RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

CHAPTER: 2000 NUMBER: 2012 APPROVED: POLICY: 4-24-2012

APPROVED: Signature on file Bob Burbridge, Chief

It is the policy of Fire District #4 to provide and operate with the highest possible levels of safety and health for all members/employees. Fire District #4 recognizes that the environments faced by its members/employees while fighting fires or while engaged in other emergency incidents may not always have atmospheres that will sustain life. Fire District #4 hereby establishes a mandatory self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) rule. This rule will apply to all fire suppression activities where entry into smoke-filled environments is necessary. Where entry into unknown spaces could contain hazardous atmospheres, the air will be tested if possible; if not possible, the environment will be considered hostile and the mandatory SCBA rules implemented.

- Self-contained respiratory equipment (SCBA) will be available and used by all fire fighters who enter into hazardous atmospheres during structural fire fighting activities.
- Members using SCBAs will operate in teams of two or more
- Fire District #4 will adopt, maintain, and implement a written respiratory protection program that addresses the requirements of WAC 296-62, Part E, Respiratory protection and Part I-1, Asbestos, Tremolite, Anthophyllite, and Actinolite. This includes program administration, medical limitations, equipment limitations, equipment selection, inspection, use, maintenance, training, fit testing procedures, air quality, and program evaluation.
- Respirators will be provided for, and will be used by, all personnel working in areas where:
 - i. The atmosphere is hazardous; or
 - ii. The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous; or
 - iii. The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.



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- Each new member will be fit tested before being permitted to use SCBA's in a hazardous atmosphere.

- Respirator fit test records will include:
 - i. Written guidelines for the respirator fit testing program including pass/fail criteria;
 - ii. Type of respirator tested including manufacturer, model, and size;
 - iii. Type of fit test and instrumentation or equipment used;
 - iv. Name or identification of test operator;
 - v. Name of person tested;
 - vi. Date of test; and
 - vii. Results of test.

- Fire fighters will receive training for each type and manufacturer of respiratory equipment available for their use, the step-by-step procedure for donning the respirator and checking it for proper function. Required training will include the following:
 - i. Recognizing hazards that may be encountered;
 - ii. Understanding the components of the respirator;
 - iii. Understanding the safety features and limitations of the respirator; and
 - iv. Donning and doffing the respirator.

- Fire fighters will be thoroughly trained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on emergency procedures such as use of regulator bypass valve, corrective action for facepiece and breathing tube damage, and breathing directly from the regulator (where applicable).

- After completing such training, each fire fighter will practice at least quarterly, for each type and manufacture of respirator available for use, the step-by-step procedure for donning the



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respirator and checking it for proper function.

- Members will be tested at least annually on the knowledge of respiratory protection equipment operation, safety, organizational policies and procedures, and facepiece seals, to the fire department's standard. Such records will remain part of the member training file.
- Members will be allowed to use only the make, model, and size respirator for which they have passed a fit test within the last twelve months.

(Note: Each fire fighter working in a hazardous area requiring the use of SCBA will wear and use a PASS device. PASS devices will meet the requirements of NFPA, Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) for Fire Fighters 1982, 1993 edition. See WAC 296-305-02017 Personal alert safety system (PASS) protection)