

## **SECTION IX - FIREFIGHTER RESPIRATORY PROTECTION**

### **9.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)**

9.1.1 Firefighters shall wear self-contained breathing apparatus under the following emergency conditions:

- while engaged in interior structural firefighting or search and rescue operations.
- while engaged in roof ventilation operations at structural fires.
- during all phases of firefighting and overhaul, except where deemed unnecessary by the incident commander such as for assignments incidental in nature (such leaf and grass fires, etc.).
- during emergency situations involving hazardous materials where fire department personnel may be exposed to such substances.
- while working in confined spaces where toxic products and/or an oxygen deficient atmosphere may be present.

9.1.2 Firefighters wearing SCBA shall be fully protected with the use of approved structural firefighting clothing that meets the requirements of the PEOSH Standards for Firefighters and NFPA 1971, "Standard on Protective Clothing for Structural Firefighting." Protective clothing shall include turnout coat, bunker pants, gloves, boots, protective hood, helmet, and PASS device.

9.1.3 Firefighters shall not wear SCBA under conditions that prevent a good face seal, such as while they have facial hair that interferes with the seal of the facepiece with the face or while wearing eyeglasses with temple bars that extend through the sealing edge of the facepiece.

9.1.3 Firefighters wearing SCBA should conduct a facepiece negative fit-check prior to entering any atmosphere which may expose the wearer to respiratory hazards. This may be accomplished by closing off the facepiece connection for the regulator and inhaling. If the facepiece leaks air in through the sides or any other location, it fails the fit-check and should be re-donned and retested or replaced with a unit which passes the test. The exhalation valve should also be tested for proper operation prior to entering any potentially hazardous atmosphere.

- 9.1.4 Firefighters operating with SCBA shall work in teams of at least two who are in communication with each other through visual, verbal, or physical means to coordinate their activities and are in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.
- 9.1.5 Firefighters should not remove the SCBA at any time while exposed to the dangerous atmosphere warranting its use.
- 9.1.6 When firefighters are involved in operations that require the use of SCBA, a personnel accountability system shall be implemented for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of personnel using SCBA, as well as their times and locations of entry into the hazardous atmosphere. Whenever possible, a standby crew with SCBA shall be available for search and rescue of firefighting personnel.