

Wales Center Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

Standard Operating Procedure: Respiratory Protection Program

PURPOSE

The elements described in this program are designed to ensure the safe and effective usage of respiratory protection at emergency incidents.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Fire Chief is responsible for the overall implementation and maintenance of this program.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief is responsible for:

- Determining which tasks require respiratory protection.
- Selecting the proper respirator for the specific application.
- Conducting Member training and conducting fit testing.
- Ensuring that Members clean, maintain and properly store respirators.
- Conducting periodic evaluation of the respiratory program to ensure that it is achieving its desired goal.

Officers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that appropriate, approved type respirators are available for use.
- Ensuring that Members wear the required respirators.
- Conducting periodic inspections to ensure that the Members are maintaining their respirators, which would include cleaning, sanitizing, and proper storage.

Members are responsible for:

- Using the respiratory protection in accordance with the training received.
- Inspection, cleaning, sanitizing, and proper storage of their respirator.

RESPIRATOR SELECTION

The Fire Chief is responsible for selecting the appropriate respiratory protection. Selection will be based upon the following elements:

- The type(s) and concentration(s) of airborne contaminant(s).
- The characteristics and location of the hazardous area.
- The Members' activities in the hazardous area.
- The capabilities and limitations of the respirators.
- The duration of respirator use.
- Selection will be made according to "Practices for Respiratory Protection" American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z88.2-1980.
- Only respirators having NIOSH approval will be used.

MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, INSPECTION, AND STORAGE

The Fire Chief will ensure that Members properly clean and maintain their respirators. The following items will be included in the maintenance program:

- Cleaning and sanitizing.
- Disassembly of the components from the respirator and inspection for any defects.
- Immersion of the respirator and components in warm, soapy water (120o-130o F). The respirator face piece and components should be gently scrubbed to remove all dirt. Care must be taken not to damage any of the components.
 - NOTE: air-purifying filters and cartridges must never be washed.
- Rinsing of the respirator and components.
- Sanitizing of the respirators and components by immersion in a chlorine bleach solution (approximately one ounce of household bleach, such as Clorox®, to one quart of water).
- Rinsing and drying of the respirators and components.
- Inspection, testing and repair (if necessary).
- Storage of the respirators should be kept away from sunlight, and caustic or toxic chemicals that may cause deterioration of the respirator (mask or other parts).
- Inspect before and after each use for the following:
 - Deterioration of any rubber or silicon parts.
 - Condition of the components (filters, cartridges, valves, etc.).
 - Tightness (secureness) of all connections.
 - Check all end-of-service life indicators.
 - SCBA alarms, regulators, gauges, etc.
 - SCBA cylinder pressure.

All respirators must be properly stored to protect them from damage due to environmental factors (sunlight, temperature extremes, etc.), and chemicals. When respirators are not in use, they must be placed in a plastic bag and stored in a clean area. Respirators should be stored with the face piece and exhalation valve in a normal position to prevent it from taking a permanent distorted shape. Respirators should not be stored in work benches, tool boxes, or lockers unless they are protected against airborne contaminants, distortions, and any damage.

TRAINING

All Members who are required to use respiratory protection will be instructed on the proper selection, use, and limitations of the equipment. This training will be provided prior to any assignment requiring the use of such equipment. The training, conducted by the Fire Chief, will also include information on the following:

- Nature of the respiratory hazard and what may happen if the respirator is not used properly.
- Engineering and administrative controls being used and the need for the respirator as added protection.
- Reason(s) for selection of a particular type of respirator.
- Limitations of the selected respirator.
- Methods of donning the respirator and checking the fit (negative and positive checks).
- Operation of the respirator.
- Proper wear of the respirator.
- Respiratory maintenance and storage.
- Proper method for handling emergency situations.

- A record of Members' names, and dates and types of initial training, and subsequent refresher training will be recorded.

FIT TESTING

It is well recognized that no one respirator will fit every individual. Therefore, to provide the appropriate respirator, fit testing will be performed to ensure a tight seal between the face piece and the wearer. Fit testing will be provided by the approved physical exam provider.

Worksheet for Selection of Respirator	Location: Wales Center	Operation: Interior Structural Firefighter	Reason for requiring respirator evaluation PESH Act and OSHA Standards	I. Member Exposure Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminants or other respiratory hazards - Any hazardous material • Estimated concentrations - Immediate Danger to Life or Health (IDLH) • Chemical composition of contaminants - Any • Physical form of contaminants - Aerosol (Gas, Vapors, Fumes, Mists) • Appropriate exposure limits - OSHA Standards II. Respirator Selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respirator use is required by the standard. Indicate the make and model number of the respirator selected, and indicate any limitations on its use. If the respirator is a chemical cartridge or filter type unit, indicate the frequency required for cartridge or filter replacement. • Type of respirator - Ultralite MMR • Manufacturer - MSA • Model - MMR (Mask Mounted Regulator) • Limitations - two (2) air cylinders
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MEDICAL EVALUATION

- Medical examinations will be provided by the approved physical exam provider.
- Individuals assigned to tasks that require the use of respiratory protection will have a medical examination to determine if they are able to perform the work while wearing a respirator.
- The medical examination will be reviewed by a licensed health care professional (LHCP).
- The evaluation will be given prior to a Member being allowed to wear a respirator.
- Periodic examinations will be conducted as necessary, based upon the LCHP's opinion(s), and any other contributing factor(s), such as a change in the physical status, anatomy, vision, hearing, etc.

MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE ROUTING

- Name - Wales Center Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.
- Date questionnaire given - at every physical examination
- Date evaluated by LHCP - at every physical examination
- Date referred for physical examination - every February
- Results of physical examinations and questionnaires - retained by the Fire Chief

PROGRAM EVALUATION

This section requires the Company to conduct evaluations of the workplace to ensure that the written respiratory protection program is being properly implemented, and to consult Members to ensure that they are using the respirators properly.

1. The Company shall conduct evaluations of the workplace as necessary to ensure that the provisions of the current written program are being effectively implemented, and that it continues to be effective.

2. The Company shall regularly consult Members required to use respirators to assess the Members' views on program effectiveness, and to identify any problems. Any problems that are identified during this assessment shall be corrected. Factors to be assessed include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1. Respirator fit (including ability to use the respirator without interfering with effective workplace performance);
 - 2.2. Appropriate respirator selection for the hazards to which the Member is exposed;
 - 2.3. Proper respirator use under the workplace conditions the Member encounters; and
 - 2.4. Proper respirator maintenance.

RECORD KEEPING

This section requires the Company to establish and retain written information regarding medical evaluations, fit testing, and the respirator program. This information will facilitate Member involvement in the respirator program, assist the Company in auditing the adequacy of the program, and provide a record for compliance determinations by OSHA.

Medical Evaluation

- Records of medical evaluations required by this section must be retained and made available in accordance with 29CFR 1910.1020.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Members using SCBA during interior structural firefighting operations are deemed to be working in an IDLH atmosphere.

Standard operating procedures (SOP's) must be developed which ensure that communications can be maintained between those working in the IDLH atmosphere and supervisory personnel (Officers) outside, so that their safety can be monitored and assistance can be dispatched, if necessary.

These SOP's must ensure that suitably equipped standby personnel, located at the nearest safe area, are available to provide a rapid response to any call for assistance. The size and number of rescue teams will be determined by conditions and the number of firefighters at risk.

1. The Incident Commander shall appoint an Accountability Officer, who shall have the responsibility of maintaining communications with those Members working inside of the structure to ensure their safety. Such communications may be voice, visual or signal line. This includes radio communications.
2. Members working inside of the structure shall work in mutually supporting teams of at least two persons. These individuals shall maintain close contact with each other such that if one individual suffers some difficulty, the other will be immediately aware and able to render assistance. The contact between these individuals must be by voice, visual or touch. Radio communications are not acceptable.
3. The Accountability Officer shall have command of an adequate number of suitably equipped personnel to perform rescue duties should the need arise. Rescue teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Firefighters who shall be located in the nearest safe area so as not to be affected by any likely incident which would precipitate the need for their services. Members of the rescue team(s) shall not be assigned duties which cannot be abandoned without jeopardizing the safety of others on the fireground. Pump operators and ladder truck operators may not be utilized as part of a rescue team if the apparatus they are operating is being utilized in the operations being conducted.
4. The Accountability Officer shall dispatch the rescue team(s) whenever a request for assistance is received from those inside or whenever those inside cannot be contacted to determine their status. The Accountability Officer shall communicate with those inside frequently enough to ensure their safety.
5. The Incident Commander shall ensure that a minimum of four (4) Firefighters are assembled prior to implementing operations inside the structure involved unless, in his/her professional judgment, immediate action must be taken to prevent loss of life or serious injury. Rescue operations shall be conducted in teams of at least two (2), and rescue teams shall be set up as personnel become available to the Incident Commander.

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