

Manhattan Fire Protection District

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	Subject The use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	Date 8/27/90 SOP# 300-1

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to assure that all personnel are protected against the hazards of respiratory contact with the products of combustion, super heated gases, toxic products, or other hazardous contaminants, and are ready to commence fire suppression or rescue operations at an emergency scene while maintaining the highest level of safety for all personnel.

SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all personnel operating at the scene of any emergency incident or training exercise.

ENFORCEMENT

The primary responsibility for the enforcement of this procedure rests with each individual. Company officers or acting company officers are responsible for the enforcement of this procedure. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the company officer or acting company officer who shall be responsible for the result of any deviation.

DEFINITION

The use of a complete self contained breathing apparatus shall include: back frame, cylinder, face mask in place, breathing tube installed and breathing self contained air.

APPLICATION

1. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be worn by all personnel operating:
 - a. in a contaminated atmosphere
 - b. in an atmosphere that may suddenly become contaminated
 - c. in an atmosphere that is oxygen deficient
 - d. in an atmosphere that is suspect of being contaminated or becoming oxygen deficient.
2. This includes all personnel operating:
 - a. in an active fire area
 - b. directly above an active fire area
 - c. in a potential explosion or fire area, including gas leaks and fuel spills
 - d. where products of combustion are visible in the atmosphere, including vehicle fires and dumpster fires
 - e. where invisible contaminants are suspected to be present (including carbon monoxide during overhaul)
 - f. where toxic products are present, suspect to be present or may be released without warning
 - g. in any confined space which has not been tested to establish respiratory safety

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Premature removal of SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul operations when smoldering materials may produce carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases, SCBA must be used or the atmosphere changed. Prior to removal, fire areas should be thoroughly ventilated, and where necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided. If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBA shall be used until the atmosphere has been tested and determined to be safe.

Signature of Chief Dale VanderBoegh Date 8/27/90