

**Sanoca Rural Fire District, Inc.**  
**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**Emergency Operations**

**Fire Company Operations**

**Subject: Use Of S.C.B.A.**

Revised: May 03, 2003

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this procedure is to assure that all personnel are prepared to perform operations while maintaining personal safety.

It is the policy of this department that personnel not be exposed to any hazardous atmosphere without S.C.B.A.. Instances of exposure shall be thoroughly investigated by the Safety Officer. The Safety Officer shall make appropriate recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

**APPLICATION:**

This procedure shall apply to all personnel.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

Each Firefighter is responsible to follow this procedure. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the Incident Commander .

**DEFINITIONS:**

Use of S.C.B.A.: Shall mean the wearing of S.C.B.A. with the facepiece in place, low pressure hose connected to the regulator and breathing air from the cylinder.

Hazardous Atmosphere: Any atmosphere that is oxygen deficient or that contains a toxic or disease producing contaminant. A hazardous atmosphere may not be immediately dangerous.

**USE:**

The use of S.C.B.A. is mandatory for all personnel working in the following environments:

- Atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
- Atmosphere is known to be hazardous.
- Atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.
- When the Incident Commander feels the need for S.C.B.A.

This would include personnel in the following:

- In area with active fire.
- Inside a building involved in fire.
- In a potential fire or explosion area, such as a flammable vapor leak (natural gas leak).
- Where smoke is visible, including vehicle and dumpster fires.
- Where toxic products are present, suspected of being present, or could be released without warning.
- In unventilated confined spaces or in any below grade areas.
- In any areas suspected of containing carbon monoxide, including all areas under overhaul.

Personnel using S.C.B.A. shall also wear and have operating a PASS. alarm. Personnel using S.C.B.A. shall also wear complete personal protective clothing as outlined in the protective clothing S.O.P.. Removal of S.C.B.A. is at the discretion of the Incident Commander. For removal of S.C.B.A. the atmosphere must be free of smoke and the area must be thoroughly ventilated.

Personnel operating in areas where the atmosphere could become hazardous, but where there would be warning prior to danger, may wear S.C.B.A. with the facepiece removed. It must be ready for immediate use should conditions change rapidly.

Users are responsible to ensure that the S.C.B.A. used during an incident are cleaned, cylinders filled, and that they are put back in service on that apparatus.