

POLICY - 3.4.2 - RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM
SCOPE - ALL PERSONNEL

GENERAL:

In the interest of providing all workers with a safe and survivable working environment within the parameters of emergency scene operations, the District is committed to the following policy:

The District shall provide respiratory protection equipment to all workers whenever such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the worker. The respiratory equipment used will be applicable and suitable for the purpose intended.

All personnel shall receive instruction in the use, limitations, care and basic readiness checks of respirators used in this fire department.

There shall be routine surveillance of the work area to determine the most appropriate level of respiratory protection required for that condition.

Personnel will not be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators unless it has been determined that they are physically able to perform the work and use the equipment.

SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS:

No firefighter shall be permitted to enter an uncontrolled, contaminated, toxic or oxygen deficient environment without the prior proper donning of self-contained breathing apparatus.

No firefighter shall be permitted to wear, use, or maintain a specific type of breathing apparatus until such time that they are adequately trained and can demonstrate an acceptable skill level with the appliance. This skill must be demonstrated and evaluated on an annual basis.

Breathing apparatus shall be inspected for readiness and general condition on at least a weekly basis.

Breathing apparatus shall be thoroughly cleaned, checked and sanitized after each use.

Any piece of breathing apparatus found to have any defect shall be taken out of service until such time as it is repaired or replaced.

Repair of self-contained breathing apparatus shall be conducted only by those

individuals who are properly authorized to perform such work.

Prior to removal of self-contained breathing apparatus, the area of operation shall be ventilated and monitored to determine the safety of such an act.

OTHER RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:

Whenever a firefighter, fire cause investigator, or other worker is to be exposed to airborne contaminants in the form of dusts, mists, ash, soot, organic vapors and the like, they shall be provided with a respirator meeting the minimum protective requirements of MSHA (Mine Safety & Health Administration) and NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health) for such contaminants.

For the purpose of assuring that these respirators are sanitary and fully functional, the District will provide disposable respirators that meet the minimum requirements of MSHA and NIOSH. These respirators shall be discarded immediately upon conclusion of the specific job, or whenever the worker leaves the work site for the day.

Disposable respirators are not to be transferred from one worker to another.

The District shall maintain an adequate supply of these disposable respirators to meet the need of the work at hand and to assure replacement upon return to the station, or upon conclusion of a specific job.

Whenever it is identified that the worker may be exposed to airborne contaminants that are beyond the protective limits of the disposable respirator, the worker must exit the work site. Under this condition, the worker may reenter the work site only if the appropriate respirator is provided by the District.