



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GENERAL ORDERS

RESPIRATORS (GAS MASK / SCBA)

PURPOSE:

This policy is intended to assist with the protection of a deputy's respiratory system should the deputy come into contact with an airborne contaminate. This policy applies to all sworn deputies within the Sheriff's Office.

Equipment described in this order meets first responder standards established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Division and South Carolina Department of Labor standards.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Administrative Responsibilities - It is the responsibility of the Sheriff to:

1. Monitor for compliance with requirements outlined in this policy.
2. Enforce all safety requirements set forth by the South Carolina Department of Labor (OSHA).
3. Provide, free of charge to all deputies, the proper equipment and supplies necessary to protect the deputy from occupational exposure to harmful airborne hazards, as required by current OSHA standards.
4. Maintain an effective air-purifying respirator (APR) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) training program as outlined in the **TRAINING** section of this policy.
5. Provide, free of charge to all deputies, an initial and annual physician-directed medical screening program for each deputy required to wear an APR or SCBA.

Deputy Responsibilities - It is the responsibility of each deputy to:

1. Follow all procedures outlined in this policy.
2. Report to a supervisor missing or damaged APR or SCBA covered by this policy.

APR / SCBA

SELECTION AND USE:

Only National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) approved APRs / SCBAs will be used. APRs and APR filters will be selected based on current OSHA and NIOSH standards.

SCBAs will be selected based on current OSHA and NIOSH standards

An APR is not to be used as a means of respiratory protection for:

1. Any atmospheric condition in which an oxygen deficit may exist (i.e., confined space areas, areas where there is smoke generated from a fire, etc.).
2. Any atmospheric air contaminating the mask and/or in any atmospheric air the filter is not designed/approved for or the concentration exceeds the respirator's filtering ability (i.e., chemical release when the specific chemical is unknown or the concentration is unknown).

TRAINING:

Deputies are to receive respirator training prior to donning an APR or SCBA for respiratory protection. Training must reflect current information offered by the manufacturer and current standards recognized by OSHA.

APR training is to include the following topics:

1. Proper respirator and filter selection for the anticipated hazard.
2. Proper fit testing and user fit checks for the specific respirator.
3. Proper donning and doffing methods.
4. Proper cleaning and storage methods.
5. Respirator examination and damage recognition
6. Proper mask maintenance.

SCBA training is to include the following topics:

1. Proper SCBA selection for the anticipated hazard.
2. Proper fit testing and user fit checks for the specific SCBA.
3. Proper donning and doffing methods.
4. Proper cleaning and storage methods.
5. Respirator examination and damage recognition
6. Proper mask maintenance.
7. Unit dials, gauges, alarms, etc.
8. Emergency operation
9. Buddy breathing system if equipped
10. Emergency rescue procedures from immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments.

**MEDICAL
APPROVAL:**

All deputies required to don and use an APR or SCBA during the performance of their duties must receive a medical approval from a licensed physician. Approval may be obtained through the OSHA Health Questionnaire. Re-evaluation of each deputy's health status will be performed annually.

Deputies not medically cleared to wear a respirator will not don an APR or SCBA, or place themselves in a position to require the use of

an APR or SCBA. It is the responsibility of each deputy to notify his/her supervisor if their health status changes in such a manner rendering him or her unable to wear a respirator.

FIT TESTING:

All deputies must successfully pass a quantitative fit test conducted in accordance to current OSHA standards. Quantitative testing is to be conducted with a PortACount.

There is not to be any interference between the face and mask seal (beard, temple bars, etc.) during fit testing or any other time the APR or SCBA is used. A maximum of 24 hours beard growth is acceptable. Fit tests are to be conducted in accordance with the fit test equipment manufacture's guidelines for testing.

Prior to fit testing, the deputy is to practice donning and doffing (with user fit checks) to insure a good mask/facial seal. Additional fit tests may be required if the deputy's facial structure changes (surgery, significant weight loss, etc.).

APR**CLEANING/STORAGE:**

A respirator is to be maintained in a clean state, free of dust. Clean the mask as soon as practical after use:

1. Prepare solution of warm soapy water.
2. Remove filter and applicable parts.
3. Soak mask and parts for 5-10 minutes and clean with soapy rag or soft brush. (Do not soak filter; wipe down outside only.)
4. Rinse well and air dry.
5. Re-assemble and check for operation.
6. Store mask in bag or pouch.

APR FILTER**DISPOSAL:**

APR filters are to be disposed of in the following manner:

1. Filters exposed to irritant gases (OC, CS, CN) can be disposed of in the regular trash cycle.
2. Filters exposed to other products (i.e. WMD, other chemical hazards) are to be disposed of in a manner consistent with the recommendation(s) of the Hazardous Materials Incident Commander on the scene.

**SCBA DONNING
AND DOFFING:**

Prior to donning unit inspect unit for obvious damage. If damaged, do not use and mark as such. Report damaged unit to supervisor. Use the SCBA as it is intended to be used according to the manufacture's recommendations

INITIAL DONNING:

1. Secure backpack to user and fit mask. If backpack does not fit properly do not use.
 1. Insure that the cylinder is full of breathing air. Do not don and use a partially full cylinder.
 2. Perform mask seal negative and positive fit checks prior to attaching regulator. Do not use mask if proper fit cannot be achieved.
 3. Attach regulator per manufacture recommendations, begin using air in cylinder, and check low air alarm.
 4. Do not attempt to use the unit in IDLH or questionable air environment if SCBA is malfunctioning in any way.

MALFUNCTIONING SCBA:

1. Do not use unit if malfunction is noted prior to entry into IDLH or potentially hazardous environment.
2. Leave the area as soon as possible if SCBA malfunctions or the user experiences “break-through”. Break-through is defined as smelling or tasting contaminates while wearing the mask.
3. Exit the area and do not use if breathing difficulty is experienced.

CYLINDER EXCHANGE:

1. Breathing air cylinders may be changed according to the manufactures recommendations.
2. Exit potentially contaminated environments prior to cylinder changes.
3. Only use completely full cylinders.
4. Place partially or completely empty cylinders in a location so they will not be confused with full cylinders.
5. Insure the replacement cylinder is operating properly prior to re-entry.

DOFFING SCBA:

Remove the unit in a manner that does not damage it.

**SCBA CYLINDER AIR
AND REFILLING:**

Cylinders require Grade D or better quality breathing air for refills. Refills can be accomplished by trained personnel at local fire departments.

SCBA

CLEANING/STORAGE: An SCBA is to be maintained clean and free of dust and dirt. Clean the unit as soon as practical after routine use. In cases where the SCBA has been exposed to hazardous chemicals, decontamination at the scene must be performed prior to routine cleaning.

1. Prepare solution of warm soapy water.
2. Disassemble and remove applicable parts.
3. Soak mask and other submergible parts for 5-10 minutes and clean with soapy rag or soft brush.
4. Rinse well and air dry.
5. Clean all remaining non-submergible parts according to the manufacturers recommendations
6. Re-assemble and check for operation.
7. Store mask in bag or pouch and store unit.

SCBA**MAINTENANCE:**

Each SCBA is to be inspected on a monthly basis to ensure that each unit is maintained in a state of operational readiness. Inspection log sheets for each unit will remain on file for two years. Monthly inspections do not relieve the user from conducting a quick and complete safety inspection on the SCBA prior to use.

The following equipment on each SCBA will be inspected and logged:

1. **Shoulder and waist straps/connections.** Each strap should be clean, free of damage, and connection points operating properly.
 2. **Backpack frame and connections.** Inspect the backpack frame and connections for signs of damage or improper mechanical operation.
 3. **Cylinder.** Inspect the cylinder for damage and ensure that the unit is within the acceptable time frame allowed for pressure testing.
 4. **Cylinder hose connections and hoses.** Inspect hoses and connections between the cylinder and regulator for damage and cleanliness.
 5. **Regulator.** Inspect the regulator for proper operation. Ensure the regulator is not damaged and is clean.
 6. **Alarm system.** Ensure the low pressure (air) alarm operates properly.
 7. **Hose connections between regulator and mask.** Inspect for damage, proper connection and fit, and cleanliness.
 8. **Face mask.** Inspect the face mask and head straps for damage and cleanliness.
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9. Equipment that fails inspection will be removed from service.
10. Only manufacturer-approved repair centers will perform major repair work.
11. Regulator/Mask flow testing will be conducted annually by an approved facility.
12. Inspection logs sheets, damage/repair reports, and flow testing certification documents will be stored for two years.

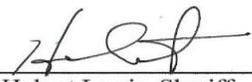
**SCBA CYLINDER
INSPECTION:**

Hydrostatic evaluation and approval must be completed every three years for composite cylinders and every five years for metal cylinders.

1. All cylinders must be current with hydrostatic testing dates stamped or label on cylinders. Do not use cylinders that are out of date.
2. Only use a manufacture-approved facility to test and approve cylinders.

**PROGRAM
EVALUATION:**

OSHA requires an annual program evaluation to determine the effectiveness of this policy. Following each evaluation, the Sheriff or his designee will approve changes and/or additions.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff