

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

S.O.P.: SCBA-01

Effective: 11-06-1992

Revised: 10-23-2017

Reviewed: 10/26/2021

Fire Chief Signature

DATE

Policy: SCBA Testing and Maintenance

Scope: All Personnel

Procedure:

Function tests and maintenance shall be performed on the first Saturday of each month. If an unforeseen event (training, holiday, staffing shortage, incident, etc.) prevent these tests from being performed, it is the on-duty shift's responsibility to reschedule testing and maintenance within one week of the original date.

All air-paks shall undergo a yearly function test according to manufacturer's specifications and in accordance with NFPA 1852.

Fit testing shall be performed annually for all personnel required to wear an SCBA. Personnel shall be able to pass this fit test at any time while on duty. No facial hair shall touch the rubber seal of the face piece. Sideburns shall not extend below mid ear and shall not cause interference with the seal of the face piece.

Monthly function tests shall include:

Visual inspection of the complete respirator for worn or aged rubber parts, worn or frayed harness webbing, or damaged components

Visual inspection of cylinder for dents or gouges in metal or in fiberglass/carbon wrapping. Cylinders which show exposure to high heat or flame, such as paint turned brown or black, decals charred or missing, gauge lens melted or elastomeric bumper distorted, shall be removed from service and emptied of compressed air.

Check hydrostatic test and manufacture date to ensure they are current

Hydrostatic test requirements:

- Aluminum cylinders 5 years
- Carbon cylinders manufactured or tested prior to 7/01 3 years
- Carbon cylinders manufactured after 7/01 5 years
- All other cylinders 3 years
- Cylinder service life 15 years

Check cylinder pressure gauge for “full” indication. If cylinder pressure shows less than “full”, replace with a fully charged cylinder

Check to ensure reducer hose coupling is hand tightened to the cylinder valve outlet

Check that the breathing regulator purge valve (red knob on regulator) is closed (fully clockwise and pointer on knob upward)

Fully depress the center of the donning switch on the top of the regulator and release

Slowly open the cylinder valve fully; the Vibralert alarm shall actuate and then stop and the PASS device should power up and give an audible confirmation chirp

Allow the air-pak to remain motionless until the PASS device goes into alarm to ensure proper function, then reset pass and manually activate to ensure proper function

Fully close the cylinder valve and open the purge valve slightly to vent residual air pressure from the system. The Vibralert shall actuate as the pressure drops below $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ cylinder pressure mark on the remote gauge, depending on the SCBA manufacture date. When air flow stops, return the purge valve to the fully closed position (pointer on knob upward) and deactivate PASS device.

WARNING

If any pak alarm does not activate properly, the apparatus shall be removed from service and repaired by Scott certified personnel.

If any other issues or discrepancies are found when using the above listed procedures, the breathing apparatus shall be removed from service, tagged, and repaired by Scott certified technicians (NO EXCEPTIONS)