

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 9

Caney Creek Volunteer Fire Department



P.O. Box 8476 • 16723 FM 2090
Grangerland, Texas 77302
936-231-3527 • Fax 936-231-2019
Email: mcesd9@caneycreekvfd.org



SCBA CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1.00 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide for proper care and maintenance of all Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- 1.2 To provide for the readiness of the fire department to respond to and operate at incidents involving hazardous atmospheres.
- 1.3 To comply with all applicable standards and requirements for firefighter respiratory protection.

2.00 SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to all Montgomery County ESD #9 Fire Department personnel.

3.00 DEFINITION

- 3.1 Equipment Officer: the officer responsible for breathing apparatus maintenance.
- 3.2 Breathing Apparatus Technician: a person or persons who have completed the required training, by the manufacturer, for field service. This person(s) shall perform repairs as directed by the Equipment Officer, within the scope of their training.
- 3.3 SCBA: self contained breathing apparatus.
- 3.4 Potentially hazardous atmosphere: An atmosphere that may become hazardous with little or no warning due to nearby conditions.

4.00 CHECK AND MAINTENANCE

- 4.1 Cleaning: All SCBA, masks, and cylinders are to be cleaned after each use. Clean with a mild soap or detergent solution according to manufacturers guidelines. Do not soak with water.
- 4.2 Decontamination:
Equipment suspected of having been contaminated shall be tagged out of service and isolated. If possible, decontamination should take place at the incident location to prevent contamination of additional equipment, apparatus, and persons. The contaminant must be identified and removed by methods suitable for the nature of the material. Personnel should consider retaining the run-off and debris resulting from the decontamination operation. If unsure of the proper decontamination methods, contact the manufacturer. Never use any cleaning agent containing chlorine bleach.

Prevent water or cleaning materials from entering the connection between the cylinder valve and the SCBA inlet.

4.3 Inspection: All Montgomery County ESD# 9 (CCVFD) Fire Department self-contained breathing apparatus will be inspected for proper function and availability according to the following schedule. All personnel are to conduct the inspection according to manufacturer's guidelines and NFPA 1852, Chapter 7.

4.3.1 **Daily:** SCBA's will be checked for proper operating condition at the beginning of each shift. **All personnel are required to inspect their own assigned SCBA.** Each person is responsible for the operational condition and documentation of his/her air pack at the beginning of each shift and the duration of that shift. **They must record their findings and sign their name to the SCBA checklist.** All unassigned SCBA's will be inspected and recorded in the daily check list as well. All unassigned air packs may be checked by any firefighter on duty.

4.3.2 **Weekly:** All self-contained breathing apparatus at un-manned stations shall be inspected once per week. Inspection information of all SCBAs inspected shall be recorded in the Outline Stations SCBA Checklist. Any SCBA needing repair shall be tagged out of service, placed in the watch office at Station 81, and reported to the on duty officer.

4.3.3 **Post-Incident:** Following each use, the user shall inspect the self-contained breathing apparatus. Inspection will be done in the same manner as the daily inspection. Equipment suspected of having been contaminated will be isolated and decontaminated.

4.3.4 **Annual:** A flow test shall be performed on every SCBA by an authorized testing facility at least annually. A function test shall also be performed on every mask at least annually. A certificate of Calibration and a technician's certificate must be provided. Annual flow test results shall be kept in the Texas Commission on Fire Protection compliance file.

4.3.5 **Cylinders:** All ESD# 9 (CCVFD) cylinders shall be hydrostatic tested every 5 years. Hydrostatic test results shall be kept in the Texas Commission on Fire Protection compliance file.

4.4 **Repair:** The Equipment Officer will arrange for the repairs and maintenance of all self-contained breathing apparatus. No members are allowed to perform alterations to form, fit, or function of SCBA.

4.4.1 **Reporting:** All SCBA needing repair shall be placed in the watch office with a completed OUT OF SERVICE tag and reported to the on duty officer. When a cylinder is found to have damage or defects, it shall be immediately depressurized to a slight positive pressure, tagged, and taken out of service. The valve shall be kept closed. The breathing apparatus technician will inspect the unit and either make minor repairs or arrange for repairs by an authorized repair facility.

- 4.4.2 Replacement: Whenever possible, breathing apparatus removed from apparatus for repair should be replaced. When a replacement SCBA is placed on an apparatus, the user shall perform a daily inspection of the unit.
- 4.4.3 Repair Procedure: Repairs and scheduled maintenance to breathing apparatus will be accomplished by authorized Fire Department personnel according to the manufacturer's instructions or will be sent to an authorized repair facility. No repairs shall be made without the express permission of the Equipment Officer.
- 4.4.4 Retired SCBA: Retired SCBA shall be destroyed or altered in a manner assuring that they will not be used for respiratory protection and shall be rendered unable to hold pressure.
- 4.5 Records: Records shall be maintained by the officer responsible for breathing apparatus to ensure proper maintenance of equipment and compliance with regulations. All forms and documents concerning SCBA or masks shall be maintained on file for a minimum of three (3) years.
- 4.5.1 Out of Service Tag: Attached to any piece of breathing apparatus removed from service. These tags will be available in the watch office. Upon completion of needed repairs, this tag will be removed and the associated repair documentation completed and maintained on file.
- 4.5.2 Repair Documentation, Work Orders, etc.: All work orders and repair documents from authorized repair facilities will be stored in the SCBA file.
- 4.5.3 Annual SCBA Flow Test: The original document will be kept in the SCBA file. All flow test summaries will be stored in a file for review by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection representative. A Certificate of Calibration and a technician's certificate must also be kept on file.
- 4.5.4 Annual Mask Performance Test: The original document will be kept in the SCBA file. A summary of all the masks tested will be stored in a file for review by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection representative.
- 4.5.5 Reporting: A monthly report shall be forwarded to the Fire Chief on the last day of each month. The report should contain a summary statement confirming that all SCBA inspections were completed as specified in this policy, an explanation for any exceptions, a copy of the Outside Agency Fill Log, and a list of all breathing apparatus out of service.

5.00 AIR SUPPLY

5.1 Air supply equipment consists of:

- 5.1.1 Stationary air compressors
- 5.1.2 Stationary air cascades
- 5.1.3 Vehicular/portable air compressors
- 5.1.4 Vehicular/mobile cascades
- 5.1.5 Spare cylinders

5.2 The officer responsible for breathing apparatus shall ensure that the stationary air compressor/cascade system is maintained according to NFPA standards.

5.2.1 Inspection: The compressor/cascade system will be inspected quarterly for normal operation. Cleaning, lubrication, and repairs will be carried out at this time, and documented. Documentation will be kept with air quality reports.

5.2.2 Air Quality Testing: Air quality testing will be performed each quarter (90 days) by an independent laboratory meeting current NFPA 1989 requirements and in compliance with standards adopted by the Texas Commission of Fire Protection.

5.2.3 Maintenance:

- ♦ Compressor lube oil will be changed yearly, or more frequently as conditions demand.
- ♦ Breathing air filtration cartridges will be changed yearly, or more frequently as conditions demand.
- ♦ Compressor intake filters will be inspected yearly, and replaced as needed.

5.2.4 Repair: In the event of failure, or if a malfunction is suspected in the compressor/cascade system, the system shall be removed from service and tagged to prevent its use. The compressor may be disabled by turning off the electrical power. Problems not endangering air quality may allow the use of air remaining in the cascade.

Repairs to the compressor/cascade system will be arranged for by the officer responsible for breathing apparatus and will be recorded in accordance with Section 4.3 of this document. No unauthorized person may make repairs to this equipment.

5.2.5 When filling any SCBA bottle using an ESD# 9 (CCVFD) cascade system the bottle will be logged into the cascade fill log. Date, person filling, bottle hydrostatic test date, department, and final fill pressure shall be logged.

5.3 All self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders will be maintained in a high state of readiness and safety.

5.3.1 All cylinders will be maintained at not less than 90% of the specified full pressure established by the manufacturer.

5.3.2 All cylinders will be maintained in good state of repair and cleanliness.