

## **Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline**

### **USE OF RESPIRATOR**

**Objective:** To provide personnel with maximum respiratory protection against smoke and toxic gases during emergency incidents.

General Information: It is mandatory that all personnel responding to structural fires (confirmed and unconfirmed), hazardous materials incidents, or any incidents of unknown nature, unusual odors, etc. must don their SCBA tanks according to departmental training policies, prior to entering the working (hazardous) area of the incident. Personnel should have SCBA available for immediate use when leaving apparatus.

#### **Guidelines:**

##### **A. Hazardous Materials Incidents**

1. No individual may enter any area, enclosure, or structure to size-up or control any hazardous material incident without the full SCBA being worn. SCBA shall be worn by all personnel within the incident perimeter contamination reduction (warm) zone and hot zone.

##### **B. Fires – Structures, Dumpsites, Dumpsters**

1. No individual may enter any area or structure for the purpose of firefighting, search/rescue, or property conservation (salvage) without full SCBA being worn. SCBA shall be worn by all personnel within the incident perimeter (area bounded by the Incident Command Officer(s)).

##### **C. Overhaul**

1. No individual may enter any area or structure to perform overhaul functions without full SCBA being worn, unless the environment has been checked with a multi-gas meter and declared safe from toxic elements by the Incident Commander.

##### **D. Eye Protection**

1. All personnel involved in overhaul shall either don the SCBA mask or use a full helmet mounted face shield for any operations above eye level. Operations of eye level or below may only require ANSI approved goggles or other approved protective eyewear. Eye Protection guidelines must also be adhered to during vehicle extrications or any other emergency operation that dictates. Any questions on incidents requiring eye protection shall be addressed with the IC or senior officer or firefighter on scene.

2. It is the personal responsibility of each employee to comply with this standard operating procedure. Additionally, it is the responsibility of all Officers to assure that they and their subordinates comply with the procedure.

#### **E. Wearing Of Fire Hoods**

1. The fire hood shall be worn on the outside of the facepiece webbing. The proper procedure for wearing of the hood is:
  - i. Put the hood on prior to donning the turnout coat.
  - ii. Don the turnout coat. This step best assures maximum neck protection.
  - iii. Pull the hood down, off the head, with hood now around the neck.
2. When donning the facepiece of the air mask:
  - i. Don the facepiece and adjust the webbing straps to assure the seal.
  - ii. Pull the hood up to cover the head and the webbing.
  - iii. Put on the helmet and tighten the chinstrap to secure the helmet.
  - iv. ***All Personnel shall wear the issued protective hoods whenever entering an IDLH atmosphere, particularly for interior firefighting.***

#### **F. PASS Device:**

1. Personnel shall not operate within or enter into any hazardous atmosphere without activating the **Personal Alert Safety System** (PASS Device). Personnel must ensure the PASS Device is fully operational prior to entry.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.