

# Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

## OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 711

### Respiratory Protection

Effective Date: May 1, 2011

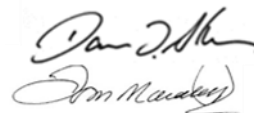
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Revision Date: February 2, 2018

Forms:

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

Approved By: Tom Marable, President VFRA



## PURPOSE

This program is written in accordance with the requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910 and 1926; along with the Department of Labor (DOL), which requires fire departments to provide a written respiratory program. OSHA 29 CFR 1910 and 1926 were utilized in developing the minimum requirements of this respiratory protection program.

## SCOPE

This procedure applies to all operational personnel within the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management and the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments to insure the safety of all personnel working in or around an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere.

## I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Interior structural firefighting – physical activity of fire suppression inside a building or enclosed structure, which is involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.
- B. Incipient stage – a fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose system without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.
- C. Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere – any structural fire beyond the incipient stage.
- D. Imminent danger – a hazard that could cause death or serious physical harm immediately, or before the danger can be eliminated through normal enforcement procedures.

## II. STRUCTURAL FIRES

- A. This guideline will be applied at any fire, which is beyond the initial or incipient stage of a fire and cannot be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.

Desire to Serve

Ability to Perform

Courage to Act

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- B. The interior attack is to be undertaken only after sufficient personnel are assembled, consisting of a fire attack team containing at least 2 members operating under the buddy system, along with at least two people outside the structure operating as apparatus operator and incident commander. A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) of at least 2 members should be established if rescue has been eliminated as a possibility. These two RIT members must remain outside the IDLH atmosphere in standby mode. These personnel must have proper equipment donned and be readily available to conduct a rescue of the attack team if needed.

### **III. TRAINING**

- A. Training will be provided to all fire department personnel required to wear respirators in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.134(k).
- B. All employees issued a respiratory protection device, or expected to use one, shall be appropriately trained. This training shall be product specific and provided on an adequate time line in order to ensure employee knowledge of the proper use of the equipment prior to use.
- C. At a minimum, respiratory protection equipment training shall include the following issues:
1. An explanation of respiratory hazards.
  2. Consequences of not wearing or improperly wearing respiratory protective equipment.
  3. Responsibilities for using respiratory protective equipment in hazardous atmospheres.

### **IV. FIT TESTING**

- A. Fit testing will be done in compliance with 29 CFR 1910.134(f) by trained Fauquier County personnel or an approved Fauquier County contractor.
- B. Fit testing is required to determine the proper face piece size.
- C. Retesting may be needed if the user reports changes in his or her physical condition, if a health care professional insists on a retest, or if the designated face piece and respirator causes a problem (such as skin irritation) for the personnel wearing it.

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D. An annual re-test, required by OSHA, for each personnel to make sure the face piece fits properly.

**V. SCBA CHECKLISTS**

A. Each week personnel will conduct an inspection of all SCBA's within their station. This inspection shall following the procedures outlined in the Scott SCBA AirPack manual. This manual along with the inspection forms shall be located in an area accessible for all personnel to access.