

Respiratory Protection Program

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to set forth uniform policies and procedures concerning the use of respiratory protection for Fry Fire District personnel. All employees who are required to wear breathing apparatus are included in this program and must follow its requirements. Employees found in violation of this policy will face immediate disciplinary action.

Administration: The fit testing program will be administered by shift training coordinators. Supervisors will also bear the responsibility for enforcing the use of respiratory protection as set forth in the Fry Fire District Operating Guidelines.

Respirator Selection: The Fry Fire District provides positive pressure breathing apparatus for the protection of personnel that may be exposed to dangerous environments. It is the responsibility of the individual to identify and check their assigned apparatus each day. Respirators designed for protection against specific contaminants are also provided for Hazardous Materials Technicians.

Medical Evaluations: Using a breathing apparatus may place a physiological burden on employees that may affect the medical status of the employee. In order to insure that the apparatus will not create a potential hazard, all line personnel will receive an annual medical physical evaluation. This evaluation should be completed prior to the employee being fit tested or required to wear a breathing apparatus. Employees may be re-evaluated at the request of the physician, the employer, or if there is a significant change in their health status.

Fit Testing: All employees required to wear breathing apparatus will be fit tested prior to actual use, and at least annually thereafter. Employees will be re-tested if they, their supervisor, the program administrator, or the physician note any changes in their physical appearance which may possibly affect the fit of the respirator. Such changes include, but are not limited to, facial scarring, dental changes, surgery, or obvious weight change. If at any time the employee feels that the fit is unacceptable, the employee will be given a reasonable opportunity to select a different mask and be re-tested.

Damaged apparatus will be serviced and repaired by a certified provider in accordance with established department policy.

Employee Training: Fry Fire District will provide all employees with the training necessary to safely wear and use breathing apparatus. Training will be provided prior to the need to actually use the apparatus. Training will be provided on the following subjects:

- the respiratory hazards to which the employee may be exposed
- the limitations and capabilities of the breathing apparatus

- how to use breathing apparatus in emergency situations
- how to inspect, put on and remove, use and check apparatus seal
- maintenance, use, care, and storage of breathing apparatus
- medical signs and symptoms that may limit the effectiveness of breathing apparatus
- general requirements of the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard

Program Evaluation: This written respiratory protection program as well as workplace practices will be evaluated as necessary by the fire chief to assure that proper respiratory protection is being provided to all affected employees. Any employee with a concern about the respiratory hazards to which they are exposed, or about the breathing apparatus effectiveness, is encouraged to bring it to the attention of their supervisor.

Breathing Apparatus Use: Proper use of breathing apparatus is essential to the protection of employee health and safety. As previously mentioned, the improper use of respiratory protection may have serious, potentially fatal consequences. In order to insure employee safety, basic rules of breathing apparatus use shall be followed.

Employees must not have facial hair, wear glasses, or otherwise have any condition that interferes with the face-to-facepiece seal or valve function. Additionally, each employee must perform a user seal check, per the manufacturer's instructions, each time they put on the breathing apparatus.

Employees must immediately evacuate the contaminated area if failure of the breathing apparatus is noticed.

Breathing apparatus will be used in any of the following:

- in any area where the atmosphere may be potentially become contaminated
- in any above or below grade area
- in any oxygen deficient area
- in any contaminated area

Maintenance and Care: Fry Fire District and those employees who wear breathing apparatus share responsibility in ensuring that all breathing apparatus are cleaned, disinfected, stored, inspected, and repaired on a regular basis. Fry Fire District will provide breathing apparatus that are clean, sanitary and in good working order and it is essential that they be maintained that way. A certified provider will provide maintenance and service testing on all breathing apparatus as required. All breathing air compressors and related equipment will be serviced as required.

Damaged items will be removed from service until repaired. Breathing apparatus must be cleaned and disinfected after each use. All breathing apparatus must be stored in the locations provided in order to keep them free from damage. Wearer must inspect all apparatus and equipment daily for function and serviceability.