

CORNING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

Respiratory Protection Plan Policy

Adopted: October 30, 2019

Revised:

Policy #:	
Policy:	Respiratory Protection Plan Policy
Effective Date:	October 30, 2019
Authority:	29 CFR 1910.134 and 156; Town Law § 176 (11) and (21)
Cross-reference:	

POLICY: The following is the Respiratory Protection Plan of the Corning Joint Fire District.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to describe the equipment selection, maintenance, and use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, N-95, and other respiratory protective devices.

PROCEDURE:

1. Type of Equipment

- A. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be positive pressure type that was constructed to the standards that were in effect at the time the equipment was purchased. The unit shall have a minimum service life rating of thirty (30) minutes, equipped with an integrated audible alarm that will sound when unit reaches 25% to 33% of its rated service time and with visual volume supply indicators, and meet all other requirements of 1910.134 and 1910.156.
- B. N-95 respirator is a NIOSH approved particulate filtering face piece, among the most common type of particulate filtering face piece respirators. The product filters at least 95% of airborne particles, is not resistant to oils, and is designed for one time disposable use. This product may be used to prevent disease transmission from airborne contaminants and is not for use in IDLH or oxygen deficient environments. This use of this device is typically limited to medical and airborne infection control situations.
- C. Escape hoods offer protection from fire/smoke environment particulates. These are intended for a one time only use by the first responder when there is a need to rescue and self-extricate from an environment, which has rapidly deteriorated. Escape hoods are not used as a firefighting tool, and are not effective in oxygen deficient atmospheres.

2. General Overview and Maintenance of Equipment

- A. Each SCBA unit shall be examined and inspected weekly and after each use

and shall be cleaned and disinfected and/or taken out of service for repairs if required. Weekly inspections of SCBA will be documented on apparatus inspection sheets. In the unusual event that an SCBA is not assigned to a particular apparatus, a separate inspection sheet will be prepared for that SCBA. Inspection and examination shall include opening the cylinder and charging the system and inspecting all operational components of the SCBA. After each use, the SCBA unit including facepieces shall be cleaned and disinfected and if required taken out of service for repairs or maintenance.

- B. Each user of the equipment shall be trained in the proper method(s) of performing operational checks, filling of bottles/tanks, and the cleaning and disinfecting of the units and masks.
 - C. Repairs, adjustments, and replacement of component parts including battery packs should be performed by individuals trained to perform such work.
 - D. Each SCBA unit shall be tested annually by an authorized maintenance representative of the original equipment manufacturer and repaired or taken out of service if required.
 - E. Each SCBA bottled shall be hydrostatically tested on a schedule as required by the original equipment manufacturer or NFPA/NIOSH.
3. Requirements for Firefighter/User/Wearer
- A. Firefighter should be physically able to perform the work associated with interior structural firefighting while wearing a self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Should a firefighter have or incur any injury, illness or disease that the firefighter believes would prevent him/her from doing so, he/she must bring this to the attention of the Chief or Incident Commander (IC) prior to further use and the firefighter's medical condition should be evaluated.
 - B. Prior to being required to wear a respiratory protection device in the workplace the District will provide training in the types of devices to be used by that the particular during the course of his or her employment. Firefighters will be trained in the proper pre-donning checks, donning procedures, face piece seal check, operational procedures, emergency procedures and such other criteria as set forth in Paragraph 6B below. The training should be similar to that found in NYS OFPC "Firefighter I Course". Training in the proper use of respiratory protection will be supervised by the Chief and will be provided to wearers of respiratory protection devices when they begin employment and thereafter, on an annual basis or at more frequent intervals as determined by the Chief. The training required herein will be presented through terms and instruction readily understandable to the wearers of respiratory protection devices including training in all of the criteria subject to evaluation listed in Paragraph 6B and include evaluation of the wearer's

proficiency in using the respiratory protection device

- C. Prior to the firefighter using the SCBA apparatus in a toxic environment, a fit test, pursuant to Paragraph 7, shall be conducted to ensure that a proper seal of the face piece can be established. Any items such as temple frames of eyeglasses, beards, sideburns, or other condition that may cause the firefighter to fail the fit test shall not be permitted. As part of the operational check, it is imperative that the firefighter checks for a suitable seal each time the breathing apparatus is donned. If unable to obtain a seal, the firefighter should not use the SCBA or enter a hazardous environment. In accordance with OSHA regulations, 29 CFR 1910.134 et al. concerning Fit Testing and Seals of Protection Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, no firefighter shall be allowed to wear any respirator if: 1. the presence of any facial hair prohibits the direct contact of the sealing surface of the face piece with the wearer's skin; 2. facial hair interferes with the mask valve function; or 3. if the wearer fails the appropriate mask fit test for any reason.
 - D. Firefighters shall wear proper respiratory protection at all times when the condition of the ambient air is unknown or when the air contains toxic materials above the IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) level. Examples would be CO calls, overhaul, chemical spills, etc. Until such air is monitored and evaluated to indicate a level of protection less than the IDLH level, the use self-contained positive pressure breathing apparatus is required. The IC his designee must continuously evaluate conditions to ensure that appropriate devices are used.
 - E. The Fire District will provide a fit test to all interior firefighters annually or as specified by applicable law or regulation and as referenced in Paragraph 7 below. The Fire District's health care provider and/or qualified in-house personnel will administer the test at the time the firefighter receives his/her annual physical or when scheduled during the calendar year. All records will be kept with the Fire District and the health care provider.
 - F. All firefighters shall adhere to the Accountability System SOP while using respiratory protection. Appendix B sets forth the Accountability Procedure that the District utilizes for compliance with the two in-two out requirements of 29 CFR 1910.134.
4. Return to Service
- A. It shall be the responsibility of the firefighters assigned to a particular apparatus to conduct and/or supervise the weekly and after-use cleaning, operational checks, proper disinfecting and replacement on apparatus of all SCBA.
5. Breathing Air/Compressor
- A. The breathing air shall meet established levels of purity and shall be tested

annually based upon the frequency of compressor use and type of filtering system provided. An approved outside agency will be responsible for recommended testing and compressor maintenance. As a minimum, the breathing air should meet grade "D" specifications.

6. Training Objectives and Evaluation

- A. On no less frequent than on an annual basis and as part of the District's continuous training program referenced in Paragraph 3B, the District will present through terms and instruction readily understandable to the wearers of respiratory protection devices will annually review and be evaluated on his/her familiarity and performance in the use of respirators. In addition to those specific matters referenced in Paragraphs 3B and 6B, wearers of respiratory protection devices will also be given instruction on the general requirements of the current OSHA respiratory protection standard.
- B. The following will be included in the training and evaluation:
- 1) Why respiratory protection is necessary and selection of appropriate respiratory protective equipment when necessary for the conditions presenting and the capabilities and limitations of the equipment.
 - 2) Proper donning, doffing, adjustment, and seal fitting of the device.
 - 3) Respirator facepiece adjustment and seal fit (check for proper seal, absence of facial hair contacting sealing surfaces, etc.) including assessment of how improper fit, usage or maintenance can compromise the protective effect of the respirator.
 - 4) Appropriate respirator selection for the hazards to which the wearer is exposed.
 - 5) Proper and emergent respirator use under the conditions that the wearer encounters including situations where the respirator malfunctions or the air supply is depleted.
 - 6) Proper respirator maintenance and storage and how and when to remove a device from service when warranted.

7. Fit Testing

- A. Fit testing on all individuals requiring such testing will be performed as required and as noted above. This testing will be done by the Fire District's health care provider or by certified and approved District personnel using appropriate testing equipment. The current fit test provider is:

(Insert name, address, and phone of testing agency)

- B. Quantitative fit testing will be performed for SCBA tight-fitting facepieces and will be performed using either generated aerosol, ambient aerosol or Controlled Negative Pressure as per the certified test provider's protocol and manufacturer's specifications.
- C. N95 testing will be performed by qualitative testing using Isoamyl acetate, Saccharin, Bitrex, or Irritant smoke.
- D. Fire District personnel performing or certifying such testing must be qualified in performing such testing as noted.
- E. Testing and Certifying Qualifications are as follows:
 - 1) Successful completion and certification of the NY State DHSES, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Respirator Protection Program course; or
 - 2) Successful completion and certification of any similar approved and accepted industrial sponsored Respiratory Protection course; and
 - 3) Approval of the testing personnel or service by the Chief.
- F. Testing Equipment;
 - 1) The Fire District has chosen the _____ as its fit testing appliance of choice. (Specify make and model)
 - 2) This or any succeeding testing appliance will be cleaned and/or calibrated, and repaired as needed or required, but in no instance should that period of review or calibration exceed two years.

**CORNING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
APPENDIX A**

The makes and models of the respirators used by the District are as follows:

(list all that apply)

1. SCBA	Manufacturer	Model	Cylinder Capacity
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2. N95			N/A
3. Escape Hoods			N/A

CORNING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT APPENDIX B

ACCOUNTABILITY

Members using SCBA during interior structural fire fighting are deemed to be working in an "Immediately-Dangerous-To-Life-or-Health-Atmosphere" (IDLH).

The Incident Commander and Operations officer (Ops) will assure that communications can be maintained between those members working in the IDLH atmosphere and supervisory personnel outside so that their safety can be monitored and assistance dispatched if necessary.

District standard operating procedures must assure that suitably equipped standby personnel, located at the nearest safe area, are available to provide a rapid response to any call for assistance. The size and number of rescue teams will be determined by conditions and the number of fire fighters at risk.

- 1) The IC shall appoint an Accountability Officer (AO) who shall have the responsibility of maintaining communications with those members working inside of the structure to assure their safety. Such communications may be voice, visual or signal line. (i.e., Radio is acceptable voice communication)
- 2) Members working inside the structure shall work in a mutually supporting team of at least two. These individuals shall maintain close contact with each other such that if one individual suffers some difficulty the other will be immediately aware and be able to render assistance. The contact between these individuals may not be by radio. The contact must be by voice, visual or touch.
- 3) The AO shall have available at his direction adequate number of suitably equipped personnel to perform rescue duties should the need arise. Rescue teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Fire Fighters who shall be located in the nearest safe area so as not to be affected by any likely incident which would precipitate the need for their

services. Members of the rescue team shall not be assigned duties which cannot be abandoned without jeopardizing the safety of others on the fire ground. Apparatus operators may not be utilized as part of the rescue team if the apparatus they are operating are being utilized in the operations being conducted.

4) The AO shall alert and dispatch the rescue team whenever he/she receives a request for assistance from those inside or whenever he/she is unable to determine their status. The AO shall communicate with those inside frequently enough to assure their safety.

5) The IC shall assure that a minimum of four (4) fire fighters are assembled prior to implementing operations inside the structure involved unless, in the exercise of his professional judgment, immediate action must be taken to prevent the loss of life or serious injury. Rescue operations shall be conducted in teams of at least two and rescue teams set up as manpower becomes available to the incident commander.