CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 3.03 – SCBA & PASS **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish the standard for use of SCBA (**S**elf-**C**ontained **B**reathing **A**pparatus) by members of the Carver Fire Department.

1.1 SCOPE

This guideline is designed to assure the safety of Carver Firefighters who might be working in areas that may be compromised by diminished or contaminated oxygen supply.

1.2 GENERAL

SCBA of the open-circuit design will be positive pressure and future units purchased shall meet the requirements contained in the latest NFPA Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Firefighters.

Compressed breathing air in the SCBA cylinder will meet the requirements of grade D air quality, as well as meeting a water vapor level of less than 25 ppm.

All SCBA will be inspected, used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

1.3 PROCEDURE

01. SCBA shall be provided for and shall be used by all personnel working in areas where:

- **A.** the atmosphere is hazardous
- **B.** the atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous
- **C.** the atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous
- **D.** personnel are working below ground level or inside any confined space

02. Members using SCBA will operate in teams of two (2) or more who are in communication with each other through visual, audible, physical, safety guide rope, electronic or other means to coordinate their activities, and are in close proximity to each other to provide assistance in case of an emergency.

03. When members are involved in operations that require the use of SCBA or other respiratory protective equipment, at least one member will be assigned to remain outside the area where respiratory protection is required. This member will be responsible for maintaining a constant awareness of the number and identity of personnel using SCBA. Members with SCBA shall be standing by for rescue whenever possible.

04. Beards or facial hair shall be prohibited for members required to use SCBA. If eyeglasses are worn, the member shall use frames that do not pass through the seal area of the face piece.

1. 4 TESTING

01. Sources of a compressed breathing air, such as compressors, cascade systems, storage receivers, etc. used for filling SCBA cylinders shall be tested at least annually to assure their compliance with the requirements stated above.

02. SCBA cylinders will be hydrostatically tested with the periods specified by the manufacturers and the applicable government agencies.

1.5 PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM (PASS)

01. Each member involved in an activity, which requires the use of a SCBA, shall be provided with and shall use a PASS device, which is incorporated into our SCBA's. Each PASS device shall be automatically tested prior to each use by turning on the cylinder and will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

02. All new PASS devices purchased by the Carver Fire Department shall meet the requirements of the latest NFPA Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) for Firefighters.