

The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
Physical Plant and Capital Planning Services Division

POLICY:			NUMBER: S-45
SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)			Page 1 of 3
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			SUPERSEDES: New

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to identify the requirements and use of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for hazardous work or emergency situations. This policy may not cover all potential situations, and the authority to deviate from it belongs to the on-scene supervisor or incident commander, who shall consult with OHS on such matters.

Scope:

The University of Western Ontario will provide full personal protection to its employees during normal and emergency operations. In emergency situations, personnel are required to use SCBA whenever operating in an atmosphere suspected of being "Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health" (IDLH), or when the atmosphere could potentially become IDLH.

All personnel who are expected to function in areas outlined in this policy shall be trained in the proper use and operation of the SCBA in accordance to CAN/CSA-Z94.4-02 standard.

Policy:

1. SCBA shall be used by all personnel operating under any of the following conditions:
 - I. In an atmosphere which is suspected of being contaminated or oxygen deficient.
 - II. On a hazardous roof where exhaust outlets have not been shut down and locked-out.
 - III. This includes all personnel operating:
 - a. Where invisible harmful concentrations of contaminants are suspected to be present (e.g. carbon monoxide); or,
 - b. Where toxic products are present, suspected to be present, or may be released without warning; or,
 - c. In an emergency confined space entry where the space has not been tested to establish respiratory safety
2. Personnel donning SCBA must not work alone.
3. Personnel using SCBA shall not compromise the protective integrity of the SCBA for any reason when operating in a hazardous atmosphere, or in an atmosphere where the quality of the air is unknown, by removing the face-piece or disconnecting any portion of the SCBA that would allow ambient atmosphere to be breathed.
4. UWO personnel shall utilize only SCBA's which are of the approved, positive pressure type, and have been certified (and hydrostatically tested as per the manufacturer's recommendations).
5. Only pure, certified, compressed air shall be used to fill the air cylinders of the UWO SCBA's.

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Policy- continued:

6. SCBA air cylinders shall be pressurized to 2200 psi. The minimum acceptable air pressure for a stored SCBA air cylinder is 2000 psi. Any time a cylinder is found with less than 2000 psi, it must be recharged. For cylinders pressurized to 4400 psi, the minimum acceptable air pressure is 4000 psi.
7. SCBA's shall be inspected monthly using the equipment check-off list and before and after each use. Inspection shall consist of a full function test including donning the mask and drawing air. Additionally, each SCBA will be cleaned after each use and stored in a "ready-to-use" fashion, which includes all straps being fully extended, untwisted, and properly stored on each apparatus.
8. SCBA's and their spare air cylinders shall be stored in applicable trades shops in such a manner as to be readily available for quick operations; yet shall be well secured enough to prevent injuries to personnel or accidental damage to apparatus and/or equipment.
9. Only authorized, trained personnel may don the SCBA's. If they are not prepared to enter, they need to notify their supervisor.
10. Users shall conduct user seal checks each time that they wear their SCBA face piece.
11. Users shall use either the positive or negative pressure checks as specified by the manufacturer.
12. No person is permitted to wear tight-fitting respirators if they have any condition such as facial scars, beards or other facial hair, or missing dentures, which prevents them from achieving a good respirator seal. No one is permitted to wear headphones, jewellery, glasses, or other articles that may interfere with the face piece-to-face seal.
13. Under no circumstances will any part of the SCBA and/or its associated components be tampered with, modified, or otherwise adjusted for any reason than its intended use, nor will any safety features be bypassed. Only certified personnel shall repair the SCBA.

Procedure:

University of Western Ontario Trades and specialized staff may respond to unplanned releases of hazardous materials such as refrigerants, chlorine, and carbon monoxide in mechanical rooms, tunnels, and other locations. Western's Haz-Mat / Confined Space Rescue Team may be called upon to assist in the response.

For Emergency Situations Involving Physical Plant Operations:

When responding Trades require the services of the Haz-Mat / Confined Space Rescue Team, i.e., operational support and rescue if required:

- Call Campus Police Services at 911 and request the assistance of the Haz-Mat / Confined Space Rescue team.
- The Haz-Mat Team will assemble and respond alongside with the applicable PPD trades.
- Trades Personnel will don the SCBA and enter the emergency location alongside with the Haz-Mat Team.
- The Haz-Mat Team will monitor the area and ensure the safety of PPD personnel as they perform emergency repairs.

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- SCBA units mounted on walls in Thames Hall and the Recreation Centre pool areas will be maintained in-place and inspected monthly.
- All other SCBA units will be adequately stored in Stores, and in applicable Trade Shops; these must be accessible and ready for immediate use.
- All SCBA at PPD and OHS will be inspected monthly, hydrostatically tested as required (every three years for fibreglass cylinders, and every five years for aluminium and carbon-fibre cylinders) and air in the tanks shall be exchanged at least annually.
- All SCBA units must be inspected and maintained every two years by a person authorized by the manufacturer.
- All PPD SCBA cylinders will be refilled and maintained (as mentioned above) by a safety supplier who has been selected through an RFQ process approved by Western's Purchasing Department.