

# **Lake Jericho Volunteer Fire and Rescue**

## **Standard Operating Procedure**

**Subject:** SCBA and PASS Inspection and Repair

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2010

**Authorized By:** Chief Guy Coombs

---

### **I. Purpose:**

*To initiate an inspection schedule of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) devices that ensures compliance with NFPA Guidance and provides for the safety of Lake Jericho Volunteer Fire Department personnel.*

### **II. Background:**

NFPA requires fire departments to “ensure that an SCBA that is assigned to an individual user or in-service apparatus be inspected at the beginning of each duty period and where an SCBA is not assigned to an individual user or first out apparatus for a duty period, the inspection shall be performed at least weekly, and shall include a check of the entire unit for deteriorated components, air tightness of cylinders and valves, gauge comparison, regulator and bypass valve operation, and check of the regulator connection, exhaust valve (in mask) and low-air alarm. The inspection shall comply with the minimum standards of the National Fire Protection Association. The SCBA shall be clean and ready for service.” Fire departments are further required to “maintain and supply upon request by the Commission, records and reports documenting compliance with Commission requirements concerning self-contained breathing apparatus”.

PASS devices. Fire departments are required to “ensure that the PASS device assigned to an individual user or first out apparatus be inspected at the beginning of each duty period”.

### **III. Policy:**

- A. All SCBA and PASS devices shall be inspected within the appropriate time period:
  - 1. Each SCBA assigned to an individual or first out apparatus shall be inspected at the designated intervals.

2. Each SCBA not assigned to an individual or first out apparatus shall be inspected at least monthly.
3. Each SCBA shall be inspected after each use.
- B. The person performing the inspection shall immediately complete the inspection record form.
- C. Company officers shall be held accountable for ensuring that the inspections are done according to the following procedures and for timely completion of the inspection report.
- D. The inspection records shall be collected and maintained by the Department Maintenance Officer, with deviations reported to the Chief or as required by State Law.

**IV. Procedure:**

- A. Each SCBA and PASS shall be inspected as follows:
  1. Visually inspect the complete facepiece for worn or aging rubber parts, worn or frayed harness webbing or damaged components.
  2. Visually inspect the cylinder for dents or gouges in the metal or in the fiberglass wrapping.
  3. Check the air cylinder for indication of 4000 to 4500 psi; if it's less than 4000 psi replace or "top-off" the cylinder. If the cylinder is significantly low, pull it out of service to be evaluated for leaks.
  4. Check to ensure that the first stage regulator coupling is hand tightened to the bottle valve outlet.
  5. Make sure that the breathing regulator purge valve is closed.
  6. Slowly open the cylinder valve fully by rotating the knob counterclockwise. The low air alarm should briefly sound, then stop. There should be no airflow from the face piece. The lights on the PASS should flash indicating function in the monitor mode.
  7. Compare the air pressure indicated on the two gauges. They should be within 100 psi of each other. If grossly out of compliance, the SCBA should be taken out of service, visibly tagged as out of service, and the problem reported to the Chief.
  8. Dock the regulator in the face piece.
  9. Hold the facemask to the face insuring a good seal.
  10. Inhale sharply to automatically start the flow of air. Breathe normally from the facemask and check for normal airflow and operation.
  11. Check Heads-Up Display in lower right corner to see if 4 green bars are illuminated. Check flashing yellow lights. One flash is low battery on mask. Two flashes is low battery in the transmitter.
  12. Depress button to turn on and check voice amplifier. Red light should come on (if equipped).

13. Depress the air control switches on the regulator and remove the regulator from the facemask. The flow of air should stop.
14. Depress the purge valve. Air should flow freely from the regulator. Depress the air control switches and the flow of air should stop.
15. Hold the unit motionless. The flashing green lights on the PASS device will change to red and a pre-alert tone will be sounded.
16. Move the SCBA to reset the PASS to the monitor mode.
17. Hold the SCBA motionless, allowing it to go into the pre-alert mode, then 8 – 10 seconds longer, allowing it to go into the full alarm mode. Full alarm mode should consist of flashing red lights and a loud audible alert.
18. Manually reset the PASS by pressing the reset buttons. Movement will not reset the device when it is in alarm mode.
19. Test the PASS device by pressing the alarm button.
20. Manually reset the PASS by pressing the reset buttons.
21. Close the cylinder valve.
22. Open the purge valve to release any air from the system. The low-pressure alarm should activate when the pressure drops below 1000 psi on the reserve gauge.
23. When the airflow stops, reset the purge valve.
24. Press the PASS reset buttons to turn the unit off.
25. Ensure that the SCBA is clean and ready for service.

B. Complete the inspection record.

C. Repairs:

1. If the PASS device or low pressure alarm has a low battery:
  - i. Take the unit out of service pending battery replacement.
  - ii. Document the battery replacement on the SCBA/PASS checklist.
2. When an SCBA, mask or PASS device requires service:
  - i. The unit will immediately be taken out of service and marked in such a manner that no member will mistakenly attempt to place the unit in service.
  - ii. The unit will be evaluated by the assets management coordinator and he/she will determine if the service can be completed in-house or if the unit or its components need to be sent to an authorized service center for repair.
  - iii. Documentation of the service will be made on the SCBA/PASS maintenance and inventory list.
  - iv.