

## SCBA Operational Use

### 302.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document provides arrival and on-scene procedures for Euless Fire Department units responding to an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment that requires the use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Corresponding Policies:

Rapid Intervention/Two-in Two-out  
Respiratory Protection Program

### 302.2 FIRST FIVE MINUTES

The first arriving Euless Fire Department unit should:

#Contact Dispatch and provide the following information:

- Unit on-scene
- Initial scene size-up
- Unit assuming incident command (IC)

The IC should:

#Perform or direct another member to perform a 360 assessment and report back to the IC. The 360 assessment should, in part, reveal whether potential or actual IDLH conditions exist.

#Establish the department accountability system.

#Before entering an IDLH environment, take reasonable steps to ensure that the practice of two-in/two-out is being followed and that a Rapid Intervention Team is on-scene or responding.

#Call for any additional required resources, including units with RIT and air refill capabilities.

#Establish a rehabilitation (rehab) area and assign members to rehab duties.

### 302.3 PROCEDURES

#### (a) Apparatus

1. Apparatus should be placed according to procedures for the specific event. Follow the Traffic Incident Management System and Roadway Incidents Procedure for roadway incidents.
2. Apparatus Operators should keep their SCBA close enough to don quickly if needed.

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(b) Personnel

1. Personnel should:
  - Be in full personal protective equipment (PPE) until otherwise advised.
  - Remain with their assigned apparatus until directed by the IC.
2. In deciding whether to go on air, personnel should consider:
  - Timing.
  - Size-up.
  - Wind direction.
  - Location.
  - Hazardous conditions, current and future.
  - Atmospheric monitoring.
  - Conditions unique to the IDLH.
3. The Incident Commander (IC) should consider establishing operating zones.

### **302.4 OPERATIONS**

(a) Suppression Team

1. Personnel entering the IDLH atmosphere should do so in teams of two or more and remain in visual or voice contact with each other at all times.
2. Personnel should operate using the practice of two-in/two-out.
3. All teams should enter, operate and leave together.
4. Personnel should be on air whenever they are:
  - (a) Investigating smoke conditions.
  - (b) Engaged in suppressing any size fire with the possible exception of a vegetation fire.
  - (c) Entering an area that may be oxygen deficient such as:
    - Confined spaces.
    - Trenches.
    - Unventilated structures.
    - Septic tanks.
  - (d) Entering the hot zone at a hazardous material incident.
  - (e) Entering any area where contaminant levels may become unsafe without warning.
  - (f) Operating in any situation where exposures cannot be identified or reasonably estimated.

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- (g) Ordered by the Company Officer or IC to be on air.
- (b) Emergency Procedures
  1. The Fireground Accountability and Mayday procedures should be used whenever:
    - A sounding Personal Alarm (or Alert) Safety System (PASS) or low-air alarm that cannot be associated with a firefighter outside the IDLH area is reported.
    - A member is reported to be missing.
    - A PAR reveals missing members.
    - A member calls a Mayday.
  2. All malfunctioning SCBA should be removed from change-out zones, placed out of service and tagged for later inspection.
- (c) Rapid Intervention Team
  1. When functioning as the initial RIT members should be in full PPE and have SCBA equipped with Universal Air Couplings, when available, ready for use.

### **302.5 UNIVERSAL PRACTICES**

1. Assigned personnel should use their SCBA during all phases of the fireground operation, including overhaul, until otherwise advised by the IC.
2. Crews on air should enter only with a full tank and monitor time and air use.
3. To maintain situational awareness in the hazard zone, crews should:
  - Look for changing fire behavior and structural hazard conditions.
  - Communicate face-to-face and/or via radio the conditions they observe and any change in conditions.
  - Have two or more escape routes out of their work area.
  - Create a safety zone to work between the fire and their exit so that the fire cannot prevent their exiting.
4. Crews on air should continually monitor air use so adequate time and air supply will be available to exit the structure safely.
5. Personnel must exit the IDLH environment before activation of the low-air alarm.
6. The Company Officer, IC, Incident Safety Officer or designated member should refer to the Respiratory Protection Program Policy for exposure and stress monitoring and reevaluation of personnel.