

Operating Guideline # 216

Fit Testing SCBA / N95

September 20, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to provide guidance to all Muskoka Lakes Fire Department personnel with respect to the requirement for “Fit Testing” for personnel assigned to wear respiratory protection equipment.

GUIDELINE:

1. The proper “fit” for all respirator face pieces and masks and that comprise part of our respiratory protection equipment is essential to safeguard the health and well-being of all members of the Muskoka Lakes Fire Department. To ensure that all staff have a proper and adequate facial “seal” when wearing respiratory protection, a fit test for particulate/filter masks (i.e. - N95 type) and SCBA masks shall be carried out for all staff:
 - a. During recruit training or orientation and prior to their initial use of any respiratory protection mask or device;
 - b. Bi-annually thereafter (every two years);
 - c. Whenever there is a change in the type of respirator used by the Muskoka Lakes Fire Department (e.g., brand, model, or size); and
 - d. Whenever changes to the user’s physical condition could affect the respirator face piece or mask fit.
2. All fit testing is to be conducted by personnel who are trained and qualified to perform the tests, and shall be conducted in strict accordance with the fit testing device instructions as provided by the manufacturer.
3. The persons designated to conduct the fit testing shall, in conjunction with the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator, ensure that test records are maintained which include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Name of the person tested;
 - b. Date of tests;
 - c. Specific make, model, and size of respirator or mask;
 - d. Type of test and test agent used and
 - e. Pass/fail results of the tests
4. The person conducting the fit test shall not perform the test unless the person undergoing the test is clean-shaven where the face piece or mask seals to the skin.
5. The person conducting the fit test shall not perform the test unless the person undergoing the test has not smoked for at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the test.
6. Written test results shall be maintained by the person conducting the fit test in consultation with the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

OHSA, Section 21 Committee, Firefighter Guidance Note 4.9