

Operating Guideline # 307

SCBA Breathing Air Cylinders

September 20, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to ensure that the SCBA cylinders are protected from damage and that the air contained is always kept fresh.

GUIDELINE:

General

1. All Muskoka Lakes Fire Department SCBA cylinders are to be kept full at all times and refilled when necessary. Prior to refilling a cylinder it is to be inspected for any signs of damage to the cylinder itself or the valve assembly. Cylinders which exhibit damage are to be removed from service until checked by the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator and/or a qualified third party service provider.
2. Each cylinder, when not connected to the SCBA harness, is to have a “valve protection cap” in place to protect the threads from damage and to prevent contaminants from entering the valve and/or cylinder.
3. SCBA cylinders shall be protected from physical and chemical damage such as a hard fall, damaging contact with other equipment or chemical exposure while in the station, on apparatus, while being transported and while in use at operational incidents. When in use at operational incidents, cylinders being placed (staged) for use, or that require refilling, should be placed on the designated SCBA mat/ground sheet.

NOTE: Cylinders stored in stations are to be stored in racks specifically designed for this purpose so as to prevent damage.

4. All GFD SCBA cylinders shall be refilled at an interval to be no greater than three months. To ensure that this schedule is adhered to, a coloured dot representing the quarter of the year in colours of the self-adhesive dots shall be:

- RED – January, February, March
- GREEN – April, May, June
- ORANGE – July, August, September
- BLUE – October, November, December

Refilling Procedure

5. As each cylinder is refilled, the operator shall confirm that the current quarterly date coloured dot is affixed to the cylinder. The operator shall ensure that the proper dot is placed onto each cylinder.
6. During equipment maintenance during the last month of each quarter, a check of all SCBA cylinders shall be made to ensure that all cylinders possess the proper colored dot. Cylinders without the correct dot will have the air discarded by slowly depressurizing the cylinders to the atmosphere. They will then be refilled and placed back into service.
7. Officers at each station will ensure that cylinders needing their air exchanged are brought into Station Six for filling and that new cylinders, with the proper date codes, will replace them. Air in the cascade air cylinders shall be drained and refilled once a year and a record of this procedure kept in the cascade logbook.
8. All air cylinders will have their compressed breathing air discarded once a year when they go out for visual inspection and five year hydrostatic test by a qualified third party service

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provider. The service provider will also refill the cylinders after their inspection. Records of the visual inspection and tests will be kept for the life of the air cylinders.

Service Records

9. All records pertaining to service/repair of SCBA cylinders will be maintained by the Deputy Chief and the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator.

RESPONSIBILITY:

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

REFERENCES:

- S. 21 Committee GN #1-9 SCBA Compressed Air Cylinder Handling
- S. 21 Committee GN #4-9 Respiratory Protection Program
- CSA Z180.1-13 Section 11
- MLFD OG 203 – Use of Breathing Apparatus
- <http://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/3/fdr-rici/cylinder/requalifier.aspx>