

ATTACHMENT "K"**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PLAN**

	Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy Respiratory Protection Plan	
Operations Policy		
Effective: 2/2020	Revised:	Approved: _____ <i>Executive Director</i>

Purpose

To provide an understanding of the respiratory protection program for the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy ("NIPSTA").

Scope

This document provides guidance for the selection, use and care of respiratory protection equipment utilized for NIPSTA first responder training in atmospheres which may include both immediately dangerous to life and health ("IDLH") and non-IDLH environments. The emphasis will be on consistency, safety, and efficiency of operations.

Policy

In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Personal Protective Equipment, Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.134 (2011), NIPSTA instructor/contractors shall wear respirators suitable for the identified IDLH or non-IDLH hazards that may be present in the given training prop, area or scenario. Instructors/contractors who provide instruction in live-fire, hazardous materials, confined space, or other environments that require the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus ("SCBA") are expected to provide their own SCBA equipment. NIPSTA maintains a cache of SCBA's for those instructors/contractors who elect to utilize NIPSTA's equipment in place of their own. NIPSTA does not provide air purifying respirators.

All instructors/contractors who provide instructional services involving the use of an SCBA are required to provide proof of annual quantitative fit-testing. In addition, instructors/contractors utilizing SCBA's while performing instructional services on behalf of NIPSTA must provide written proof of a medical evaluation which includes an assessment using the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's ("OSHA") respirator medical evaluation questionnaire or a medical exam that obtains the same information as the OSHA questionnaire, by a physician or other licensed health care professional, to determine the instructor/contractor's ability to use a respirator. (9 CFR 1910.134(f) (OSHA, 2011)). If the instructor/contractor elects to utilize SCBA equipment provided by NIPSTA in place of providing their own equipment, the fit-testing process must be specific to the type of mask maintained by NIPSTA. Due to confidentiality standards, personal medical information and/or copies of medical records will not be collected nor maintained by NIPSTA. Existing instructors/contractors shall achieve compliance for this standard by April 1, 2020. Effective March 1, 2020, all new instructors/contractors shall provide documentation of this requirement during the administrative onboarding process.

It is the instructor/contractor's responsibility to provide and maintain industry approved PPE, including NIOSH certified air purifying respirators applicable and suitable for the purposes intended when such equipment is necessary to protect the health and safety in *non-IDLH* atmospheres.

Students/Participants will be notified at the time of registration if SCBA equipment will be utilized. For those programs requiring an SCBA, students/participants are required to provide their own respiratory protection equipment, including an SCBA, space cylinder (minimum thirty (30) minute capacity), and spare batteries. Through the process of registering for a course requiring the use of an SCBA, the student/participant and their sponsoring department acknowledges that they have received medical clearance from a supervising physician to participate in the program, including the use of an SCBA. It is also understood that the student/participant has completed an SCBA fit test within the past twelve (12) months and has satisfied the fit testing requirement. By providing such equipment, it is assumed that all items have been examined and approved by an authorized representative of the sponsoring department or agency. All items must be clean and in proper working order. Under no circumstances will a student/participant be allowed to use equipment that does not meet NFPA 1851 standards. Any non-compliant, dirty or damaged equipment will be returned by the student/participant to his or her department for immediate replacement.

Information on respiratory protection hazards may be shared with instructors on an annual basis. Additional hazard information specific to training props can be found in the *NIPSTA Risk Management and Campus Operations Policy Manual*, Training Prop Operating Guidelines (see **SECTION VII**).

SCBA Program Management

The NIPSTA Executive Director will designate a qualified Program Manager to oversee SCBA selection, maintenance and testing. The SCBA program manager's responsibilities include:

- Risk assessment and hazard identification
- SCBA selection, procurement and acceptance
- SCBA program record keeping
- SCBA cache inspection, maintenance, inventory and testing
- Breathing air compressor, cascade and fill station maintenance, and testing
- Breathing air quality testing
- Quantitative fit testing ("QNFT") capabilities, as available and warranted

Selection of Respirators and Fit Testing

For those instructors/contractors who elect to utilize NIPSTA's equipment, NIPSTA will select and provide full face piece pressure/demand SCBA in accordance with the requirements outlined in 29 CFR 1910.134 (OSHA, 2011). However, it is the instructor/contractor's responsibility to select and provide air purifying respirations in accordance with the requirements outlined in 29 CFR 1910.134 (OSHA, 2011).

Proof of fit testing is required prior to the use of a full face piece pressure/demand SCBA. For those programs requiring the use of air purifying respirators, it is the instructor/contractor's responsibility to provide such equipment. As such, it is strongly recommended that instructors/contractor's complete and pass an appropriate qualitative fit test ("QLFT") with the respirator to be used. A QLTF may only be used for negative pressure air purifying respirators ("APF") and must achieve a fit factor of 100 or less.

Use of Full Face Piece Respirators

Full face piece SCBAs shall not be worn by instructors/contractors who have facial hair or any condition that interferes with the face-to-face piece seal or valve function.

Personal protective equipment shall be worn in such a manner that does not interfere with seal of the face piece. To ensure a proper seal of the face piece, instructor/contractor's shall perform a user seal check each time they put on a full face piece SCBA using the manufacturer's recommended procedure.

For IDLH operations, instructor/contractor's shall use the "2-in/2-out" procedure. A minimum of two (2) instructors may enter the IDLH atmosphere and must remain in visual/voice contact at all times. At least two (2) instructors must remain outside the IDLH atmosphere and be capable of immediately entering to assist if needed.

Maintenance and Care of Full Face Piece Respirators

Instructors/contractors are required to inspect SCBAs and face pieces before/contractor after each use. The manufacturer's recommendation for inspection and cleaning should be followed.

Full Face Piece SCBA Training

Prior to using any NIPSTA SCBA, instructors/contractors must be properly trained by a qualified NIPSTA representative in the following SCBA six (6) functions:

1. Donning and doffing for the specific SCBA unit used
2. General operating procedures
3. Emergency operating procedures
4. SCBA bottle filling
5. Cleaning and maintenance procedures
6. Inventory, sign-out and storage procedures

SCBA Air Quality Testing

Compressed breathing air shall meet the requirements for "Type 1 – Grade D" breathing air as described in American National Standards Institute's ("ANSI") Commodity Specifications for Breathing Air (CGA G-7.1-2018), and NFPA 1989, Standard on Breathing Air Quality for Emergency Services Respiratory Protection (2019).

Program Evaluation

NIPSTA will conduct periodic evaluations of the functional aspects of this program as necessary to ensure proper implementation. Instructors/Contractors will be assessed annually to ensure proper training and use. In addition, the SCBA Program Manager may conduct periodic risk assessments that identify and evaluate hazards that may be encountered by SCBA users based on:

1. The type of duties performed
2. Frequency of SCBA use
3. The organization's experience, and,
4. The organization's geographic location and climate

Record Keeping

Medical evaluations must be maintained by individual instructors/contractors and made available upon request per 29 CFR 1910.134 (OSHA, 2011). A generalized record of full face piece instructor/contractor fit tests will be established and updated annually.

ATTACHMENTS

None

DISTRIBUTION

REFERENCES

American National Standards Institute, Commodity Specifications for Breathing Air, CGA G-7.1-2018, (2018).

National Fire Protection Association 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments (2018).

National Fire Protection Association 1989: Standard on Breathing Air Quality for Emergency Services Respiratory Protection (2019).

Occupational Safety and Health Standards, 29 C.F.R. §1910.134 (2011).

DATES

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Last Review: February 2020

Next Review: February 2022