

**PENNINGTON COUNTY FIRE SERVICE BOARD (FSB)  
BEST OPERATING PRACTICES (BOPs)**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	Date	BOP#
USE OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)	Addition: 10/14/1992	FSB203
	Revision: 7/10/2013 1/1/2024	

<b>PREMISE:</b>	Proper use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall limit injury to and increase effectiveness of personnel operating in hazardous atmospheres.
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	The purpose of this BOP is to maximize the safety of employee working in hazardous atmospheres.
<b>SCOPE:</b>	This BOP is recommended for use by all Pennington County firefighters.
<b>EXCEPTION:</b>	The provisions of this BOP may be impractical to apply under circumstances normally found in wildland fire suppression activities.

**OPERATING PRATICE:**

- 1) This BOP is written in conjunction with the assistance of the Rapid City Fire Department to ensure consistency between agencies throughout Pennington County.
  - a) Rapid City Fire Department
    - i) SECTION: General Emergency Operations
    - ii) SUBJECT: Requirements of SCBA use
    - iii) SOP#: 103

**2) PROCEDURES:**

- a) SCBA shall be positive pressure and shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1981, "Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Emergency Services."
- b) All members of the Department shall wear SCBA when operating in any area where toxic chemicals, smoke or other agents or conditions dangerous to the respiratory system may exist.
- c) Personnel shall be assured that the SCBA is working properly before entering the work area. Beards or facial hair that interfere with the face piece seal shall be prohibited for members required to use SCBA. If eyeglasses are worn, the members shall use frames that do not interfere with the seal of the face piece.
- d) Personnel entering the work area with SCBA's shall work in pairs or teams and shall stay in direct visual or audible contact with their partner or team members.

- e) When the employees' SCBA low-pressure alarm goes off, they shall immediately leave the area with their partner or team members.
- f) When a person experiences SCBA malfunction, they shall immediately leave the area with their partner or crew members.
- g) All members of the Department shall conduct an annual mask fit test.

**3) MAINTENANCE:**

- a) Sources of compressed, gaseous breathing air such as compressors, cascade systems, storage receivers, etc., used for filling SCBA cylinders shall be assessed at appropriate intervals to assure their compliance.
- b) SCBA cylinders shall be hydrostatically assessed within the periods specified by the manufacturers and the applicable governmental agencies.
- c) All SCBA's shall be inspected, and flow tested annually.
- d) It shall be the responsibility of Operations personnel to inspect all components of the SCBA to ensure that they are trained and qualified to use on a periodic basis. Any defects or concerns shall be reported to their Officer as soon as possible. A determination must be made by the Officer concerning the operational status of the SCBA: Operational or Out-of-Service.