



SPS 330

Respiratory Protection Program Requirements

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SPS 330.12

Self-contained breathing apparatus

Provide SCBAs and require fire fighters to use the SCBA in any area where the atmosphere is hazardous, is suspected of being hazardous or may become hazardous.

Provide all fire fighters working below ground level or inside any confined space with SCBA and require them to use that SCBA unless the safety of the atmosphere can be established by testing and continuous monitoring

Inspect, use, and maintain all SCBAs as recommended by the manufacturer.

Adopt and maintain a respiratory protection program that satisfies the requirements of s. 29 CFR 1910.134 as adopted by reference in ch. SPS 332.

SPS 332

332.15 OSHA Safety and Health standards.

Except as provided in s. SPS 332.16 and subch. IV, all places of employment and public buildings of a public employer shall comply with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements adopted under s. SPS 332.50.

332.50 Incorporation of Standards by Reference.

(2) STANDARDS. The standards listed in the following tables are hereby incorporated by reference into this chapter.

Table 332.50–1

2. Occupational Safety and Health Standards, Title 29 CFR Part 1910, July 1, 2010.

Respiratory Protection Program

When respirators must be used in the workplace, the employer must have a written respiratory protection program.

This program must meet the requirements of either the OSHA respiratory protection standard, [1910.134](#).

Written program must include:

- Evaluations of the respiratory hazards in the workplace
- Procedures for selecting appropriate respirators
- Medical evaluations and respirator fit testing
- Procedures for proper use of respirators
- Procedures and schedules for the maintenance and cleaning of respirators

- Procedures to ensure adequate air quality, quantity, and flow of breathing air
- Training of firefighters in the respiratory hazards to which they may be exposed
- Training of firefighters in the proper use, wear, care, maintenance, and limitations of the respirator
- Conduct a periodic program review.

In addition to implementing the IDLH use procedures from the OSHA Standard, use procedures should include:

Fire fighters using a SCBA shall operate in teams of 2 or more members who are:

- In communication with each other through visual, audible, physical, safety guide rope, electronic or other means to coordinate their activities
- In close enough proximity to each other to be able to provide assistance in case of an emergency.

Note: SPS 330.14(3)(a)

Medical Evaluations

<http://youtu.be/0PAuHfdVimk>

*1:26-7:02

[DSPS Medical Evaluation Questionnaire](#)

Employer must evaluate whether the firefighter is medically able to wear a respirator.

Employer must select a physician or other licensed to perform the medical evaluation.

The medical evaluation can be as simple as having the physician or other licensed healthcare professional review the responses to the questionnaire. Or, it could be an "in-person" medical examination that obtains the same information as the medical questionnaire.

Responses to the medical questionnaire are confidential and may not be shared with the employer.

The employer must also provide the physician or licensed healthcare professional with information about how the firefighter will use the respirator

After reviewing the questionnaire or conducting an initial medical examination, or conducting a follow-up medical examination, the physician or licensed healthcare professional will provide the firefighter and employer with a written recommendation.

The written recommendation *cannot* include any confidential medical information about the firefighter

The written recommendation must include:

- Medically able to wear respirator/limitations
- Any need for follow-up medical evaluations
- Statement that the doctor/LHP has provided the firefighter a copy of the recommendation

Reevaluation when:

- Medical signs or symptoms related to the ability to use a respirator
- A physician/LHP, supervisor, or the respirator program administrator informs the employer that the firefighter needs to be reevaluated;
- Observations made during fit testing and program evaluation indicate need
- Change in workplace conditions

Fit Tests

<http://youtu.be/D38BjgUdL5U>

*1:25-7:56

Firefighters must be fit tested before using a respirator in the workplace.

The facepiece seal capability of each member qualified to use SCBA can be verified by **qualitative or quantitative fit testing** on an annual basis and any time that new types of self-contained breathing apparatus are issued.

Retest whenever there is change in physical condition that could affect the fit of the respirator

Employer must perform a fit test on the firefighter while they wear the same make, model, and size of respirator that they will be using on the job

If required to wear a respirator, a fire fighter may not wear a beard or facial hair that comes in contact with the facepiece or valve sealing surfaces. If a fire fighter wears eyeglasses, the fire fighter shall use frames that do not pass through the seal area of the facepiece.

Fit test records must include:

- Name of firefighter
- Type of test performed
- Make, model, style and size of respirator
- Date of test
- Pass/Fail results

Maintenance and Care

<http://youtu.be/CnF05owDxTI>

* 1:12-7:45

The written program must provide for:

- Cleaning
- Disinfecting
- Inspection
- Repair
- Storage

*Manufacturers include a section in their user instructions that provides the recommended practices for maintenance and care of the respirator

Cleaning and Disinfecting consists of:

- Taking the respirator apart
- Washing it
- Disinfecting it
- Thoroughly rinsing it
- Putting it back together when it is dry.

Respirators shall be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to be maintained in a sanitary condition

Respirators maintained for emergency use shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use

Inspection must be completed before each use and during the cleaning and disinfecting process

All respirators maintained for use in emergency situations shall be inspected at least monthly

Inspection must include checking:

- The respirator's ability to work properly
- The tightness of any connections
- The condition of the various parts (facepiece, head straps, valves, tubes, hoses, any cartridges, canisters, filters, and elastomeric parts)

Repairs:

- The respirator must be removed from service when it fails or is defective
- Must be repaired or adjusted by appropriately trained people according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Only use the manufacturer's NIOSH approved parts designed for the respirator

Storage:

- Must be protected from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.
- Must be kept accessible in the work area
- Must be stored in compartments or covers that are clearly marked as containing a respirator.
- Must be stored in accordance with manufacturer instructions.

Training

<http://youtu.be/QPNNVhz2iaA>

*1:24-4:23

It is the employer's responsibility to provide worksite-specific training and to ensure that firefighters can demonstrate the knowledge to safely and correctly use the respirator.

Firefighters must be trained before using a respirator

Firefighters must be trained at least every 12 months.

Training must include:

- Why you need to use the respirator
- What the respirator can and cannot do to protect you
- How to properly inspect, put on, take off, and use your respirator
- How to check the seal of your respirator (also called a "user seal check")
- How to use the respirator effectively in emergency situations, including situations in which the respirator doesn't work properly

- How to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent you from using a respirator
- How improper fit, usage, or maintenance can reduce your respirator's ability to protect you
- What the procedures are for maintenance and storage of the respirator
- What the requirements are for the Respiratory Protection Standards

Retrain when:

- New work assignment that has different respiratory hazards and respirator requirements from the old job
- Firefighter can't remember the information and skills needed to properly use the respirator. (Limited use)
- A situation comes up in which retraining is necessary to ensure safe respirator use. (observations of inappropriate use)

Recordkeeping

The employer must establish and retain written information regarding medical evaluations, fit testing, and the respirator program.



QUESTIONS?

