

**Title: Breathing Apparatus / Refilling
Station Procedures**

**Date Issued: December 6, 2005
Date Last Revised: NEW
Revision Number: NEW
Total Pages: 3**

Purpose: To establish a procedure for the use, maintenance, storage and refilling of all self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Department.

Scope: This procedure will be followed by all members of the Department and will be supervised by the Assistant Chief / Operations. Any deviation of this procedure will require prior notification of the Assistant Chief / Operations and the Breathing Apparatus Specialist who will be assigned by the Fire Chief.

General:

230.01.01. Breathing Apparatus Assignments

All Department vehicles are equipped with a minimum of (1) 4500 p.s.i. MSA self-contained breathing apparatus. Each SCBA is labeled as to the apparatus it is assigned to. Every attempt should be made to keep the correct SCBA with the correct apparatus.

Each employee of the Fire/Rescue Division, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Fire Administration has been issued a face-piece that is to be utilized with the MSA 4500psi MMR breathing apparatus. It is the responsibility of the individual to keep this mask in good working order. Any repairs that are needed should be directed to one of the Department's in-house breathing apparatus specialists.

Breathing Apparatus will be used by any employee that enters a potentially hazardous/contaminated environment to perform fire suppression/rescue or hazardous materials abatement activity or in any potentially oxygen deficient environment. This includes any environment outdoors, indoors or in a confined space.

230.01.02. Maintenance of All Breathing Apparatus

All breathing cylinders should be kept as full as possible at all times. A minimum of 4300 p.s.i. should be kept in every cylinder to be considered full, and ready for service.

Harness straps shall be kept in the fully open position while stored on the apparatus.

All face-piece mounted regulators shall be kept either attached to the belt clip holder for the unit or to the face piece itself. This will keep dirt from getting into the regulator while it is not being used.

After each use, each unit shall be fully checked, washed if needed, sanitized with MSA solution and dried properly.

If a unit is down for repair, a replacement unit will come from the MSA room, or off of an out of service apparatus. Any unit taken out of service for repair shall have notice attached to it explaining the problem, date and name of the employee reporting the problem.

Each member of the Department has been individually issued an MSA face piece as part of your protective clothing. The member will be responsible for the following maintenance of the face piece.

1. Check that their face piece is functioning properly and is in safe condition.
2. Place their face piece on their assigned apparatus for use each day.
3. Remove their face piece after their duty day and store in properly.
4. Keep the face piece in a sanitary and clean condition.
5. Report any problems to the MSA officer of the Department.

230.01.03. Use of Air Compressor and Refilling Station

The Department has a compressor / fill station / cascade system located at Station 61. This unit is designed for the filling of high-pressure 4500psi FIRE DEPARTMENT breathing cylinders. The filling of private SCUBA or other types of cylinders with this unit is not allowed. Permission must be received from the Assistant Chief / Operations to use the refilling station for any other reason than to fill Fire Department cylinders. This does not include cylinders from other Fire Departments or from other City Departments.

230.01.04. Operational Procedure:

Turn compressor to AUTO setting. The system will run until it reaches a pre-set pressure and will cut-off. This will fill the cascade cylinders to 5000 p.s.i.

The four-bank (6000 p.s.i.) cascade system is designed to refill the smaller pack cylinders (2) at a time. The cylinders shall always be placed in the fragmentation collars behind the gauge panel each time they are filled. **NO WATER IS TO BE PLACED IN THIS CONTAINER; THE CYLINDERS ARE TO BE FILLED DRY.**

Once cylinders are filled, caution should be used in removing the fill hoses from the cylinders. Hi-pressure air is filling the line and bleeding the line rapidly can cause eye or hearing injury if protection is not used. **ALL EMPLOYEES MUST UTILIZE EYE AND EAR PROTECTION DURING THE OPERATION OF THE FILL STATION AND COMPRESSOR.**

After use, the cascade system must be refilled to the maximum level 5000psi, and all filler lines are to be bled down and stored at the proper locations.

Any questions concerning the operation of the fill station should be directed to the MSA officer of the Department or to the Assistant Chief / Operations.