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MASK FIT TESTING / INSPECTION PROGRAM

Effective Date: 01/01/2008

Authorization: Chief John M. Buckman III

Fit testing is assigned to the Safety Officer and the SCBA Maintenance Officer.

Fit testing shall be conducted on each recruit member before they are allowed to respond on emergency calls.

Fit testing shall be conducted on each member who is qualified to perform interior fire suppression operations.

Fit testing shall be conducted annually in the months of November and December. A written report shall be provided to the Fire Chief by January 15th of each year.

All respirators that rely on a mask-to-face seal need to be annually checked with either qualitative or quantitative methods to determine whether the mask provides an acceptable fit to a wearer. The qualitative fit test procedures rely on a subjective sensation (taste, irritation, smell) of the respirator wearer to a particular test agent while the quantitative use measuring instruments to measure face seal leakage. The relative workplace exposure level determines what constitutes an acceptable fit and which fit test procedure is required. For negative pressure air purifying respirators, users may rely on either a qualitative or a quantitative fit test procedure for exposure levels less than 10 times the occupational exposure limit. Exposure levels greater than 10 times the occupational exposure limit must utilize a quantitative fit test procedure for these respirators. Fit testing of tight-fitting atmosphere-supplying respirators and tight-fitting powered air-purifying respirators shall be accomplished by performing quantitative or qualitative fit testing in the negative pressure mode.

PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS FAITHFULLY SERVING

Fit Testing Revised 01/01/2008