

# SCBA

## Objective

These SCBA exercises are intended to combine basic safety checks, periodic inspection and maintenance checks as well as familiarization with the equipment.

### **Background/Guidance**

Any inspection or maintenance is to be documented in the supplied log. Most of the training sessions will use “Performance Standard Skill Sheets” that are currently in use by the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy for certification.

### **Preparation & Equipment**

SCBA with PASS device, Turnout gear

### **Note**

The “Performance Standard Skill Sheet” is intended only as a guide for the exercise. Read the front and backside of the sheet before working through the exercise. It is worthwhile to consider the timing requirements and test yourself occasionally.

### **Training Session #1 – Procedure for Breathing Apparatus Operational Check**

- Work through the Performance Standard Skill Sheet titled ‘Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #1’ – Procedure for Breathing Apparatus Operational Check
- Although time allotments are not critical for use, use the suggested time as a guide
- Store the SCBA using the ‘SCBA After Use Checklist’
- **Important: Please complete the SCBA log and store using the “SCBA After Use Checklist”**

### **Training Session #2 – Operational Practice Using the SCBA**

- Work through the Performance Standard Skill Sheets ‘Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #2, 3, 6 and 12’
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #2, Donning Breathing Apparatus Using the Coat Method
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #3, Donning Breathing Apparatus Using the Over-The-Head Method
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #6, Replacing SCBA Expended Air Cylinder
  - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus #12, Replacing SCBA Expended Air Cylinder-Two Firefighter Method
- Although time allotments are not critical for use, use the suggested time as a guide
- Store the SCBA using the ‘SCBA After Use Checklist’
- **Important: Please complete the SCBA log and store using the “SCBA After Use Checklist”**

### **Reference Source:**

Essentials of Fire Fighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter 4



## **NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**

### **FIREFIGHTER I**

#### *Performance Standard Skill Sheet*

## **SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #1**

### *Procedure for Breathing Apparatus Operational Check*

#### **PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

**NFPA 1001 3-5.3, 3-1.1.2**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The firefighter trainee shall demonstrate the "operational check" of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The trainee shall demonstrate the daily inspection, or "operational check", that is performed to ensure that the SCBA has no deficiencies that would limit or hinder their safe, prompt, and proper use. The trainee shall accomplish the task in less than 4 minutes.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS - Procedures for Achieving the Objective**

Given a self-contained breathing apparatus, you will demonstrate the operational inspection of the SCBA unit. You shall verbalize the mandatory steps while performing this skill. You will have a maximum time limit of 4 minutes. The task will begin on my instruction to start. Time will stop when all the identified steps have been accomplished and you put your hands in the air to signal that you are finished with this task. Do you understand these instructions?

#### **EXAMINERS NOTE**

The firefighter trainee will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

#### **PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT**

Self-contained breathing apparatus unit  
Firefighting helmet

#### **REFERENCE SOURCE**

IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Delmar, Thompson Learning, Firefighters Handbook: Essentials of Firefighting and  
Emergency Response

**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY  
FIREFIGHTER I**

Performance Standard Skill Sheet

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #1**  
Procedure for Breathing Apparatus Operational Check

<b>FGID #:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>Trainee ID #:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Program:</b>	
<b>Test Site:</b>	
<b>Evaluator:</b>	

**IF THE FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE:**

- a. Checks cylinder gauge and *verbalizes P.S.I.*
- b. Checks all components for cleanliness.
- c. Checks valves.
- d. Checks straps.
- e. Turns the cylinder valve on fully and listens for alarm.
- f. Checks remote pressure and *verbalizes P.S.I.*
- g. Purges the face piece, then dons or holds face piece to face and breathes air.
- h. Operates purge/bypass valve.
- i. Properly checks alarm, ensuring its operation

(No Partial Points Given)	
POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	

**Allotted time for this skill: 4 minutes**

**Time: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds**

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:**

<b>11.0</b>	
-------------	--

**TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO PASS:**

<b>8.0</b>	
------------	--

**TOTAL POINTS SCORED BY THIS CANDIDATE:**

--

**PERFORMANCE RATING OF TRAINEE ON THIS SKILL:**     **PASS**         **FAIL**



**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**  
**FIREFIGHTER I**

*Performance Standard Skill Sheet*

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #2**

*Donning Breathing Apparatus using the Coat Method*

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

**NFPA 1001 3-3.1(b), 3-1.1.2**

**OBJECTIVE**

The firefighter trainee, wearing full protective clothing, shall properly don a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) using the coat method. The trainee will have a maximum time limit of 3 minutes.

**INSTRUCTIONS - Procedures for Achieving the Objective**

With the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) lying on the ground, back plate up, you shall don the breathing apparatus using the coat method. You shall verbalize the mandatory steps while performing this skill. Although you will have a maximum time of 3 minutes to accomplish the task, you will be required to accomplish the task in less than 1 minute for full point award. You will begin on my instruction to start. Time will stop when all identified steps have been accomplished and you put your hands in the air to signal that you are finished with this task. Do you understand these instructions?

**Examiners Note**

The SCBA shall be ready for this task prior to admitting the trainee into the test area. The trainee shall not touch the SCBA prior to the start of the examination. The firefighter trainee will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

**PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT**

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Unit

The firefighter trainee shall accomplish the task wearing "**FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTERS**" to include helmet, coat, boots, hood, and trousers. Gloves are to be omitted during the examination.

**REFERENCE SOURCE**

IFSTA, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY  
FIREFIGHTER I**

Performance Standard Skill Sheet

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #2**  
Donning the Breathing Apparatus using the Coat Method

<b>FGID #:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>Trainee ID #:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Program:</b>	
<b>Test Site:</b>	
<b>Evaluator:</b>	

**IF THE FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE:**

- b. Checks cylinder gauge and *verbalizes P.S.I.*
- e. Turns the cylinder valve on fully and listens for alarm.
- f. Properly positions SCBA unit on his/her back using the coat method.
- g. Fastens and adjusts straps.
- j. Dons and secures face piece.
- k. Checks face piece for proper seal.
- l. Protective ensemble (except gloves) is properly donned, no skin exposed, and collar fastened with helmet chinstrap securely fastened under chin.
- m. Breathes air from the SDBA unit in a positive-pressure mode.
- n. Award points for task completion time as follows:
  - Up to 1 minute – 5.0
  - 1 minute to 1½ minutes – 4.0
  - 1½ minutes to 2 minutes – 3.0
  - 2 minutes to 2½ minutes – 2.0
  - 2½ minutes to 3 minutes – 1.0
  - Over 3 minutes – 0.0

(No Partial Points Given)	
POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
2.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0 – 5.0	

**Allotted time for this skill: 3 minutes      Time: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds**

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:**

**TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO PASS:**

**TOTAL POINTS SCORED BY THIS CANDIDATE:**

<b>16.0</b>	
<b>11.0</b>	

**PERFORMANCE RATING OF TRAINEE ON THIS SKILL:**

**PASS**       **FAIL**



**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**  
**FIREFIGHTER I**

*Performance Standard Skill Sheet*

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #3**

*Donning Breathing Apparatus using the Over-the-Head Method*

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

**NFPA 1001 3-1.1.2, 3-3.1(b), 3-5.3**

**OBJECTIVE**

The firefighter trainee, while wearing full protective clothing, shall demonstrate the procedure for donning the SCBA using the over-the-head method. The firefighter trainee will have a maximum time limit of 3 minutes.

***INSTRUCTIONS - Procedures for Achieving the Objective***

With the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) lying on the ground, back plate up, you shall don the breathing apparatus using the over-the-head method. You shall verbalize the mandatory steps while performing this skill. Although you will have a maximum time of 3 minutes to accomplish this task, you will be required to accomplish the task in less than 1 minute for full points award. You will begin on my instruction to start. Time will stop when all identified steps have been accomplished and you put your hands in the air to signal that you are finished with this task. Do you understand these instructions?

**EXAMINERS NOTE**

The SCBA shall be ready for this task prior to admitting the trainee into the test area. The SCBA shall not be touched by the trainee prior to the start of the examination. The firefighter trainee will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

**PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT**

***Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Unit***

The firefighter trainee shall accomplish the task wearing "**FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTERS**" to include helmet, coat, boots, hood and trousers. Gloves are to be omitted during the examination.

**REFERENCE SOURCE**

IFSTA, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pages 125-128  
IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 4th Edition

**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**

**FIREFIGHTER I**

Performance Standard Skill Sheet

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #3**

Donning the Breathing Apparatus using the Over-the-Head Method

<b>FGID #:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>Trainee ID #:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Program:</b>	
<b>Test Site:</b>	
<b>Evaluator:</b>	

**IF THE FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE:**

(No Partial Points Given)

- c. Checks cylinder gauge and *verbalizes P.S.I.*
- h. Properly positions the SCBA unit on his/her back using the over-the-head method.
- i. Turns the cylinder valve on fully and listens for alarm.
- j. Fastens and adjusts straps.
- o. Dons and secures facepiece.
- p. Checks facepiece for proper seal.
- q. Protective ensemble (except gloves) is properly donned, no skin exposed, and collar fastened with helmet chinstrap securely fastened under chin.
- r. Breathes air from the SCBA unit in a positive-pressure mode.
- s. Awards points for task completion time as follows:
  - Up to 1 minute – 5.0
  - 1 minute to 1½ minutes – 4.0
  - 1½ minutes to 2 minutes – 3.0
  - 2 minutes to 2½ minutes – 2.0
  - 2½ minutes to 3 minutes – 1.0
  - Over 3 minutes – 0.0

POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
2.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0 – 5.0	

**Allotted time for this skill: 3 minutes** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **m**

<b>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:</b>	<b>16.0</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO PASS:</b>	<b>11.0</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS SCORED BY THIS CANDIDATE:</b>		

**PERFORMANCE RATING OF TRAINEE ON THIS SKILL:**  **PASS**  **FAIL**



**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**  
**FIREFIGHTER I**  
**Performance Standard Skill Sheet**

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #6**

*Replacing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Expended Air Cylinder*

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

**NFPA 1001 3-3.1(b)**

**OBJECTIVE**

The firefighter trainee shall demonstrate the replacement of an expended SCBA air cylinder with a fully charged cylinder. The trainee shall accomplish all of the steps in less than 1 minute.

**INSTRUCTIONS - Procedures for Achieving the Objective**

While wearing full protective clothing and having a self-contained breathing apparatus lying on the ground with the cylinder valve open, you shall demonstrate the correct procedures for replacing an expended air cylinder with a fully charged air cylinder. You shall verbalize the mandatory steps while performing this skill. Although you will have a maximum of 3 minutes to accomplish the task, you will have a maximum time limit of 1 minute for full points award. The task will begin on my instruction to start. Time will stop when all identified steps have been accomplished and you put your hands in the air to signal that you are finished with this task. Do you understand these instructions?

**EXAMINERS NOTE**

The firefighter trainee will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

**PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT**

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Unit

Fully charged SCBA cylinder (**to be used to replace expended cylinder**)

The firefighter trainee shall accomplish the task wearing "**FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTERS**" as required to include helmet, coat, boots, hood, gloves, and trousers. Gloves are to be omitted during the examination.

**REFERENCE SOURCE**

IFSTA, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pages 160-161

IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, page 96-97

**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY  
FIREFIGHTER I**

Performance Standard Skill Sheet

**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #6**

Replacing Self-Contained Breathing apparatus Expended Air Cylinder

<b>FGID #:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>Trainee ID #:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Program:</b>	
<b>Test Site:</b>	
<b>Evaluator:</b>	

**IF THE FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE:**

- d. Closes the cylinder valve.
- k. Releases pressure from system.
- l. Uncouples high-pressure hose from the cylinder.
- m. Releases the cylinder-securing device.
- t. Replaces the empty cylinder with a full cylinder. (*Verbalizes the P.S.I. in the full cylinder.*)
- u. Secures the full cylinder in the harness.
- v. Checks the condition of the cylinder opening, fitting, and O-ring.
- w. Connects the high-pressure hose to cylinder.
- x. Opens the cylinder valve and checks the operation of the gauges.
- y. *Verbally explains checking for leaks in the system.*
- z. Award points of one of the following:
  - Up to one minute – 5.0
  - 1 minute to 1½ minutes – 4.0
  - 1½ to 2 minutes – 3.0
  - 2 minutes to 2½ minutes – 2.0
  - 2½ minutes to 3 minutes – 1.0
  - Over 3 minutes – 0.0

(No Partial Points Given)	
POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0 – 5.0	

**Allotted time for this skill: 3 minutes      Time: \_\_\_\_\_minutes \_\_\_\_\_seconds**

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:**

**TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO PASS:**

**TOTAL POINTS SCORED BY THIS CANDIDATE:**

<b>18.0</b>	
<b>13.0</b>	

**PERFORMANCE RATING OF TRAINEE ON THIS SKILL:**

**PASS**                       **FAIL**



## **NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY**

### **FIREFIGHTER I**

#### *Performance Standard Skill Sheet*

## **SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #12**

*Replacing SCBA Expended Air Cylinder*

*Two-Firefighter Method*

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

**FPA 1001 3-3.1(b)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The firefighter trainee, wearing full personal protective equipment, shall properly don a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and correctly demonstrate replacement of an expended cylinder on a SCBA assembly with a full cylinder.

### **INSTRUCTIONS – Procedures for Achieving the Objective**

While wearing full personal protective clothing, you shall demonstrate the procedures for changing an empty self contained breathing apparatus cylinder while it is on the back of the other person. Although you will have a maximum of 3 minutes to accomplish the task, you will have a maximum of 1 minute for full points award. You will begin on my instruction to start. Time will stop when all identified tasks have been accomplished and you put your hands in the air and signal that you are finished with this task. Do you understand these instructions?

### **EXAMINERS NOTE**

The firefighter trainee will not be allowed to review the performance steps at the time of testing.

### **PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT**

Self-contained breathing apparatus unit

The firefighter trainee shall accomplish the tasks wearing “**FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTERS**” as required to include helmet, gloves, coat, trousers and boots.

### **REFERENCE SOURCE**

IFSTA, Essentials of Firefighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

**NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY  
FIREFIGHTER I**

Performance Standard Skill Sheet  
**SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS #12**  
Replacing SCBA Expended Air Cylinder  
Two-Firefighter Method

<b>FGID #:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>Trainee ID #:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Program:</b>	
<b>Test Site:</b>	
<b>Evaluator:</b>	
<b>Testing Attempt:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>First</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Second</b>	

**IF THE FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE:**

- a. Locates a full cylinder.
- b. Has the firefighter either bend over, or positions him/her on hands and knees.
- c. Closes the cylinder valve.
- d. Bleeds off the pressure.
- e. Disconnects the high-pressure hose from the cylinder.
- f. Releases the empty cylinder-securing device.
- g. Replaces the empty cylinder with a full cylinder.
- h. Secures the full cylinder in the harness.
- i. Checks condition of cylinder opening, fitting and O-ring.
- j. Connects the high-pressure hose to the cylinder.
- k. Opens the cylinder valve and checks the operation of the gauges.
- l. Award points of one of the following:
  - Up to 1 minute                – 5.0
  - 1 minute to 1½ minutes      – 4.0
  - 1½ minutes to 2 minutes      – 3.0
  - 2 minutes to 2½ minutes      – 2.0
  - 2½ minutes to 3 minutes      – 1.0
  - Over 3 minutes                – 0.0

(No Partial Points Given)	
POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
1.0	
2.0	
1.0	
1.0	
0.0 to 5.0	

**TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:**  
**TOTAL POINTS NEEDED TO PASS:**  
**TOTAL POINTS SCORED BY THIS CANDIDATE:**

<b>18.0</b>	
<b>13.0</b>	

**PERFORMANCE RATING OF TRAINEE ON THIS SKILL:**

**PASS**                       **FAIL**

## **SCBA After Use Checklist**

- 1. Pack Cleaned and disinfected**
- 2. Full cylinder placed on pack**
- 3. High pressure hose connected to bottle**
- 4. Locking devices on bottle harness fastened correctly**
- 5. System purged of pressure**
- 6. Purge valve turned off**
- 7. Main flow valve turned off**
- 8. Waist straps let out correctly**
- 9. Shoulder straps let out**
- 10. Correct face piece placed in case**
- 11. Face piece placed in case correctly**
- 12. Face piece straps let out**
- 13. Face piece straps placed inside face piece correctly**
- 14. Whole unit packed inside case correctly**
- 15. Case returned to truck**