Pleasant Valley Fire District
Respiratory Protection Policy Overview

PURPOSE:

The elements described in this program are designed to ensure the safe and effective usage of respiratory protection at the **Pleasant Valley Fire District**.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

The Municipal Training Officer is responsible for the overall implementation and maintenance of the respiratory protection program.

Municipal Training Officer duties include:

- Determining which tasks/duties require respiratory protection
- Selecting the proper respirator for the specific application
- Conducting firefighters training and ensuring fit testing compliance
- Ensuring that firefighters clean, maintain and properly store respirators
- Conducting periodic evaluation of the respiratory program

Officers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that appropriate, approved, type respirators are available for use
- Ensuring firefighters wear the required respirators
- Conducting periodic inspections to ensure firefighters are maintaining their respirators, which include cleaning, sanitizing, and proper storage

Firefighters are responsible for:

- Using respiratory protection in accordance with training received
- Inspection of their respirators
- Cleaning, sanitizing, and proper storage of the respirators

RESPIRATOR SELECTION:

The Municipal Training Officer is responsible for selecting the appropriate respiratory protection based upon the following elements:

- The type(s) and concentrations of airborne contaminants
- The characteristics and location of the hazardous area
- The worker's activities in the hazardous area
- The capabilities and limitations of respirators
- Duration of respirator use
- Only respirators having NIOSH shall be used

RESPIRATORS CURRENTLY APPROVED FOR USE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SCOTT Safety Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) 4.5-cylinder pressure (4500 psi)

MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, INSPECTION, AND STORAGE:

The officers will ensure that firefighters properly clean and maintain their respirators. The following items will be included in the maintenance program:

Cleaning and Sanitizing:

- Disassemble components from the respirator and inspect for any defects
- Immerse the respirator and components in warm soapy water (120-130F)
- Rinse the respirator and components
- Sanitize the respirators and components by immersing them in chlorine bleach solution (approximately one-ounce household bleach (Clorox) to one-quart of water)
- Rinse components and allow to dry
- Inspect, test, and repair if necessary
- Storage should be separate the respirator from sunlight, caustic and toxic chemicals that may cause the deterioration of the respirator (mask and other parts)

Inspect before and after each use for the following:

Deterioration of any of the rubber or silicone parts

- Conditions of components (filters, cartridges, valves, etc.…)
- Tightness of all connections
- Check any end-of-service life indicators
- SCBA alarms, regulators, gauges, etc.…
- SCBA cylinder pressure
- SCBA cylinder condition

TRAINING

All employees who are required to use respiratory protection will be instructed on the proper selection, use, and limitations of this equipment. This training shall be provided prior to any assignment requiring the use of such equipment. The training conducted by ***qualified Instructors*** and overseen by the ***Municipal Training Officer*** will also include information on:

- Nature of the respiratory hazard and what may happen if the respirator is not used properly
- Engineering and administrative controls being used and the need for the respirator as added protection
- Reason(s) for selection of a particular type of respirator. Limitations of the selected respirator. Methods of donning the respirator and checking the fit (negative and positive checks) and operation.
- Proper wear of the respirator. Respirator maintenance and storage.
- Proper method for handling emergency situations, and
- A record of employee's names and dates and type of initial training and subsequent refresher training will be recorded.

FIT TESTING

It is well recognized that no one respirator will fit every individual. Therefore, to provide the appropriate respirator, fit testing will be performed to ensure a tight seal between the face piece and the wearer. All firefighters shall be medically cleared and fit tested every year. No respiratory protection will be worn by firefighters not medically cleared and/or fit tested.

For additional information, consult Pleasant Valley Fire District Standard Operating Guideline – S.O.G. #3- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

Adopted March 1999

Revised February 2016