

GENERAL ORDER XX

SUBJECT: RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-14-02 REVIEW DATE: 02-05-2014

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

29 CFR 1910.134 sets strict requirements for the safe effective use of respiratory protection equipment in hazardous atmospheres. Included in those requirements is the need for a written respiratory protection program. The purpose of this document is to satisfy the needs of that program.

## II. PURPOSE

To provide respiratory protection and a working knowledge of the basic use and maintenance for respiratory protection equipment for all members of the West Plains Police Department who will be most likely to enter in or work in a hazardous atmosphere.

## III. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the West Plains Police Department that all members will wear respiratory protection when entering a hazardous atmosphere or any area with a potential to become hazardous. A hazardous atmosphere is defined as any one of the following atmospheric conditions:

1. Toxic Gases
2. Oxygen Deficiency
3. Situations with unknown atmospheres

## IV. PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Chief of Police shall assign an individual for overall program responsibility.
2. Employees shall be responsible for understanding and following the requirements of this program and related policies.

## V. MEDICAL EVALUATIONS

1. All employees who use APRs or SCBAs will be provided with a medical evaluation to ensure that they are physically capable of wearing respiratory protection.
2. Follow-up medical evaluations will be provided for employees when indicated by a physician or other licensed health care provider.

3. Medical evaluations and follow-up evaluations will be provided at no cost to the employee.

#### VI. RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING

1. The employer will provide annual quantitative fit testing for all employees who use respiratory protective equipment.

2. Fit test records for each employee will be maintained by the employer for at least 1 year

#### VII. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

1. An employee with the West Plains Police Department, when entering one of the hazardous atmospheres listed previously, shall wear appropriate respiratory protective equipment.

2. The decision to use air-purifying respirators (APR) or self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) will be determined on a site specific basis.

1. APRs may be used when:

a. The oxygen concentration is greater than 19.5% and

b. The chemical identification and concentration are known and:

c. The chemical concentration is below the immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) level and below the maximum use level for an APR; and

d. Appropriate cartridges are available.

3. SCBAs should be used under all other conditions.

4. Employees will not remove their respiratory protective equipment while in a hazardous atmosphere until the hazard has been mitigated and removal has been authorized by the Incident Commander or his designee.

5. Two respirators are approved for use by the West Plains Police Department:

a. Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA) Advantage 1000 face piece; and

b. Ultra Elite Respirator Face piece with a 2216 psig air cylinder rated for 30 minutes of service. (SCBA)

6. Any employee with facial hair, which comes between the sealing surfaces are not permitted to wear a respirator in a hazardous atmosphere. Facial hair consists of stubble, beard, low hairline, bangs and sideburns.

7. No employee shall enter a hazardous atmosphere alone or without following appropriate accountability requirements.

#### VII. DONNING AND OPERATION

1. The donning and operation of MSA respirators shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Several other references may also be used from time to time to determine appropriate operations and procedures to be used. These references are as follows:

a. International Fire Service Training Association, Self- Contained Breathing Apparatus, Second Edition.

- b. American National Standards Institute, Practices for Respiratory Protection, ANSI Z88.2.
- c. National Fire Protection Association, Fire Department Self- Contained Breathing Apparatus, NFPA 1404.
- d. National Fire Protection Association, Standard for Fire Department Occupational Health and Safety Program, NFPA 1500.

#### VIII. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPIRATORY PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- 1. All employees of the West Plains Police Department normally assigned to hazardous materials duties shall be issued their own SCBA face piece. Spare face pieces shall be available for use if one is not permanently assigned.
- 2. There are two (2) SCBA units maintained and in use at the West Plains Police Department. No officer of this department should enter a hazardous atmosphere unprotected.

#### IX. CLEANING

- 1. All SCBAs shall be cleaned following use and/or as required per manufacturer's recommendations as outlined in the MSA "Instruction and Level I Maintenance Manual".
- 2. All APRs shall be cleaned following use and/or as required per manufactures recommendations as outlined in the MSA "low maintenance respirator" booklet.

#### X. INSPECTIONS AND STORAGE

- 1. All SCBAs shall be inspected after each use, weekly and monthly as outlined in the attached "Inspection and Maintenance Check List".
- 2. All APRs shall be inspected as explained in the "Preparations for Donning" section of the MSA "low maintenance respirator" booklet.
- 3. Any respiratory protection equipment failing the above inspection shall be tagged for repair and taken out of service immediately.
- 4. All respirators shall be stored according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

#### XI. REFILLING OF CYLINDERS

- 1. Prior to refilling, cylinders should be inspected for the following:
  - a. Evidence of exposure to high heat or flame.
  - b. Evidence of exposure to toxic, caustic or any other hazardous chemical or gas.
  - c. Physical damage to the cylinder.
  - d. Hydrostatic test date within cylinder limitations (3 years).
- 2. All cylinders shall be filled with grade D or higher compressed air. (Air meeting NFPA 1500 Standards.)
- 3. Cylinder capacity is 2216 psig.

## XII. TESTING OF CYLINDERS

1. All cylinders constructed of fully wound fiberglass aluminum tank shall be hydrostatically tested every three (3) years as required by the Department of Transportation regulations.
2. All cylinders showing signs of possible physical damage from training or emergency operations shall be tagged as such and removed from service until such time that they can be hydrostatically tested.
3. All cylinders will have a hydrostatic test date showing the date of the latest test.
4. No cylinder shall be refilled if it exceeds the hydrostatic test limitations stated above.

## XIII. TRAINING AND USAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. All employees of the West Plains Police Department hired to perform hazardous materials duties, shall be trained in the use and basic maintenance of respiratory protection equipment. This includes proper selection and use of the respiratory protection equipment. All employees will also be given training in the recognition and type of hazardous atmospheres they are likely to encounter.
  - a. All existing employees at the time of implementation of this program has received or will receive training in the proper usage of respiratory protection equipment. All training will be documented and kept by the employee responsible for this program.
  - b. All employees trained in the use of respiratory protection equipment shall be required to demonstrate proficiency with respect usage in the following areas:
    1. Recognition of hazardous and/or potentially hazardous atmospheres.
    2. Face piece selection and fit.
    3. Donning and doffing.
    4. Operation and usage
    5. Basic maintenance and inspection
  - c. It is the responsibility of the West Plains Police Department to provide and/or coordinate all training with respect to SCBA usage and basic maintenance.
  - d. It is the responsibility of the employee to attend all required training and testing.
  - e. Certification of annual training shall be accomplished by signing of appropriate documentation by the trainer or employee in charge and the employee.
  - f. Failure to complete the annual recertification in a timely manner may be ground for disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
  - g. It is the responsibility of the West Plains Police Department to provide and/or coordinate medical testing for fitness to use respiratory protection equipment prior to actual use.
  - h. It is the responsibility of the West Plains Police Department to provide and/or coordinate periodic retesting for medical fitness to use respiratory protection equipment.

#### XIV. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The West Plains Police Department shall review this policy annually with its employees communicating any modifications or changes in these policies and procedures or the recommended operation of the respiratory protection equipment. This program will be evaluated annually and revised as necessary.

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#### AUTHORITY

A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

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Jeffrey S. Head, Chief of Police