



**Division 02** **Apparatus and Equipment**

**Chapter 32 – Refilling SCBA Cylinders**

February 2009

**POLICY**

This General Order shall set forth a policy and procedure governing the refilling of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinders, based upon the manufacturer’s safety precautions.

**DEFINITIONS**

N/A

**PROCEDURES**

**1. General Guidelines**

The following procedures will enhance the level of safety provided to all personnel in the Fire/EMS Department and are to be followed whenever breathing apparatus cylinders are refilled:

Visually inspect the cylinder and ensure there is no obvious damage to the cylinder. If there is any doubt as to the safety of the cylinder, it is to be placed out of service and sent to Apparatus Maintenance for inspection.

During the visual inspection, ensure that the hydrostatic date is current. If the cylinder is out of hydro, it is to be placed out of service and sent for hydrostatic testing. Carbon-fiberglass cylinders are to be tested every five (5) years.

During the visual inspection of carbon-fiberglass cylinders, ensure that the cylinder is within its “useful life.” Carbon-fiberglass cylinders have a useful life of fifteen (15) years from the date of manufacture.

Fragmentation containers shall be used whenever 4.5 cylinders (4500 psi) are filled. Inspect the threads on the cylinder and the fill whip to ensure that they are clean and free of dirt, and are in good condition.

Cylinders are to be filled at a slow rate to reduce the heating of the cylinder caused by compression of the air.

To ensure full charge of breathing air cylinders, terminate the filling when the pressure reaches the service pressure of the cylinder. Allow it to cool to room temperature, and then, if necessary, top-off the cylinder.

Further information may be found on the Scott Aviation Safety Precautions for Air-Pak Cylinders sheet.

These procedures shall be posted at the cascade system or fill station at each Fire/EMS Department station or work location.

**REFERENCES**

Scott Aviation Safety Precautions for Air-Pak Cylinders sheet

**FORMS/ATTACHMENTS**

N/A