Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Safety	**Referral No.** S-18	**Subject:** Respirator Fit Testing	**Date Issued** 5/05	**Date Revised** 3/08

Purpose:

- The purpose of this SOG is to establish the policy and procedures to be used in regard to the Respirator Fit Testing.
- The program shall address the procedures for achieving compliance with OSHA 1910.134 Respiratory Protection Standard & NFPA Standard 1404 Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Program.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel whose job description requires them to work in atmospheres that may contain products of combustion or other harmful contaminants.
- These include the positions of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Fire Chief.

Definitions:

- **IDLH**: Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health.
    - An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from the dangerous atmosphere.
- **Interior Structural Firefighting**: Physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures that are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
    - All officers will ensure that all personnel in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere, or potentially IDLH atmosphere, wear respiratory protection in addition to other safety attire.
- Personnel
    - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper respiratory protection that is provided and required for safe operations.
    - All suppression personnel shall complete an annual respirator fit test and OSHA medical Questionnaire as required by OSHA standard 1910.134 Appendix C.

General:

- It is the policy to ensure that firefighters avoid any respiratory contact with products of combustion, superheated gases, toxic products, or other hazardous contaminants.
- All personnel expected to respond to and function in areas of atmospheric contamination, shall be equipped with SCBA, and be trained in its proper use and maintenance.
- Each member of the Bath Township Fire Department that occupies one of the above mentioned job positions shall be issued an SCBA face piece.
- It is the responsibility of that member to maintain the face piece in a ready and usable condition.

Guidelines:

- Medical Evaluation of SCBA Users
  - Each member who is expected to operate at an emergency scene and enter a potential or actual IDLH environment shall be evaluated to determine the member's ability to use an SCBA and face piece.
    - This medical evaluation may be accomplished by the administration of a medical questionnaire (OSHA Standard 1910.134, Appendix C) or a physical examination conducted by a PLHCP that elicits the same information.
  - The medical evaluation shall be completed prior to any fit testing or assignment where the use of an SCBA may be required.
  - The medical evaluation shall be completed at no cost to the member.
    - Any member who refuses to be medically evaluated will be relieved of emergency response duties and assignment as a firefighter.
  - The Fire Chief (or his designee) shall be responsible to see that these evaluations are completed and that the proper documentation is obtained.
    - The records shall be available to the employee and to OSHA inspectors.
  - The Fire Departments Medical Director shall review all Medical Evaluation forms and provide feedback directly to the member (if required) and notify the Fire Chief of personnel that require further evaluation prior to Fit Testing.
    - See OSHA 1910.134 Appendix C for details concerning the medical evaluation and questionnaire.
- Fit Testing For SCBA Face Pieces
  - Fit testing is required for all members using SCBA.
  - Each member will be issued a SCBA face piece of the appropriate size for that individual.

- The fit testing must be completed prior to using the SCBA face piece and on an annual basis, or if there is a change in the member's physical condition that could affect face piece fit.
- No facial hair or jewelry shall be permitted that interferes with the proper seal of the face piece.
- The Bath Township Fire Department shall use a qualitative fit testing process.
- The Fire Chief and Command staff shall be jointly responsible to see that all members complete testing and the necessary documentation.
  - See OSHA 1910.134 Appendix A for more details concerning the fit test procedure.