

# ***Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association***

## **DOCUMENT 60-07-09**

### **AIR MANAGEMENT (ROAM) GUIDELINE**

Adopted December 2009 County Chiefs Meeting

#### **Purpose:**

To provide a guideline for rules that governs the use of SCBA in operational situations; specifically the use and management of SCBA air.

#### **References:**

NFPA 1404 Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training  
"Air Management in the Fire Service" Gagliano, Phillips, Jose, Bernocco  
Seattle Fire Department-ROAM Standard Operating Guideline

#### **Procedure:**

1. Work Periods When Using SCBA:
  - a. After two 30 minute work periods or one 45 or 60 minute work period members will report to the rehab area for fluids, rest, cooling (active and/or passive) and medical evaluation.
  - b. Company Officers should be constantly evaluating the mental status and general appearance of their crews and report to rehab for evaluation when necessary.
  - c. A work period shall be defined as the consumption of one 30 minute bottle of air, including the time required to exit the IDLH atmosphere and clear gross decontamination. Consumption of one 45 min. or one 60 min. bottle of air shall be considered to be 2 work periods and will require assignment to rehab. Exception: using 30 minutes or less of air from a 45 min. or 60 min. bottle shall be considered 1 work period.
2. Rules of Air Management:
  - a. Air Management is critical to the health and safety of our members.
  - b. Firefighters shall continuously monitor and manage their air supply.
  - c. Entry team members should help monitor each other's air level.
  - d. Firefighters shall make every effort to exit the fire building or hazardous atmosphere before their low-air warning alarm activates.

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- e. Entry personnel must take into account the need for residual air to complete the decontamination process.
  
  - f. A low-air warning alarm activation at an emergency scene is a warning that a firefighter may be in trouble.
3. Air Management Standard:
- It is the expectation that all personnel using self contained breathing apparatus will:
- a. Check their air levels before they enter the hazardous atmosphere. Members must have a minimum of 4050 PSI in their cylinder in order to make initial entry into a hazardous atmosphere. This check must be done during the pre-entry buddy check.
  
  - b. Follow the Rules of Air Management when operating in a hazardous atmosphere.
  
  - c. When the **first** member of any team has their 50% heads-up display (HUD) light activate (Half bottle indication, one (1) yellow LED, flashing at one (1x) time per second), the officer/team leader shall radio to the proper ICS supervisor (IC, Operations, Division/Group) that the team is at 50% air. This shall be done following the C.A.N. format (conditions, actions, needs) and will be reported at the end of this format. This allows the appropriate supervisor to pre-plan for replacing that team in the hazardous atmosphere.
  
  - d. When the **first** member of any team has their 25% heads-up display (HUD) light activate (Quarter bottle indication, one (1) red LED, flashing at ten (10x) time per second), the officer/team leader shall exit the IDLH atmosphere with the entire team intact. It is the department's expectation that all members will exit the hazard area before their low-air warning alarms are activated.
  
  - e. In the rare instance in which a team member works into their reserve air and their low-air warning bell begins to ring in the hazard area, the officer/team leader shall report over the radio to the proper supervisor their unit signature, their location, that a team member's low-air warning bell is ringing, and an estimation of how close they are to the exit.