
COFOG Interoperability Guideline

A-3

Air Management

SIZE-UP/ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS

- A. On scene determine need for SCBA
1. Confirmed hazardous or IDLH atmosphere (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health).
 2. Possible or potential exposure to IDLH or hazardous atmosphere.
 3. Any situation which IC or designee determines need for SCBA.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHECKLIST

- A. Personnel will ensure that their SCBA is working properly for use by conducting a SCBA daily check.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- A. Individuals will check air pressure with their team or crew prior to entry of a hazardous or IDLH environment. Team air pressure will be given as the lowest member's air pressure.
1. Initial entry will be with a FULL cylinder
 - a. Min. 4050 psi for High Pressure system
 - b. Min. 2000 psi for Low Pressure system
 2. Personnel should perform a radio check with operations prior to entry.
 3. Personnel should conduct a R.E.A.D.Y check prior to entry:
 - Radio (on and on the correct channel).
 - Equipment (all PPE, TIC, Tools, Hose line, etc.).
 - Air (Full SCBA bottle, air supply on, and FF on air).
 - Duties (Does everyone on the team know what the assignment is?)
 - Yes. (You must answer the 1st four to answer YES!)
- B. Continually monitor air consumption and air pressure levels as an individual and team. Consider using operational prompts including:
1. Regular time intervals (approximately every 5 minutes).
 2. Ten (10) minute safety burn time notifications from dispatch relayed from operations.

3. Change of work area (floor level change, area searched).
 4. Passing of major landmarks within the structure.
 5. Completion of assignment and prior to accepting another assignment.
 6. As the situation dictates.
- C. Crew/team members must inform the Crew/team leader when a crew member reaches 50% SCBA bottle capacity.
- D. The crew/team leader will give an air status report to operations when first member of the crew/team air pressure falls to 50% bottle capacity.
1. 50% SCBA bottle capacity is as follows:
 - 2250 psi for High Pressure SCBA
 - 1100 psi for Low Pressure SCBA
- E. The crew/team leader will manage the SCBA air levels of all crew members, and ensure that crew egress from the IDLH occurs prior to the activation of the low air alarm (use of emergency reserve air begins).
1. Low air alarm activation (25% SCBA bottle capacity) occurs at the following psi:
 - 1125 psi for High Pressure SCBA
 - 550 psi for Low Pressure SCBA
- F. If a low air alarm activates in the IDLH environment, it calls for an immediate action item for the individual or team. This action shall be a radio transmission to command stating your crew status by specifying who you are, where you are and what your situation is.
1. Example: "Command from E323, we're on the first floor in the Bravo/Charlie corner. A crew member's air status is 1100 and we are in sight of the door on the bravo wall and exiting the structure."
- G. Command will confirm that the RIT leader has received the low air member's message.
- H. The RIT crew will evaluate the need to reposition to confirm members exit.
- I. The RIT leader will monitor the crew/individual's time to exit and report to command if exiting has not happened within one minute of low air notification.
- J. Command will evaluate the need for an immediate RIT response.

- K. Individual/crew will notify command and RIT immediately upon exit from the building.
- L. Command should consider a PAR at this time.
- M. All members shall maintain a heightened awareness of low air and PASS alarm activation. A low air alarm activating without a notification to Command will produce a call to command from any crew or member in close proximity of the alarm, reporting low air alarm activation and the possible location.
 - 1. Example: "Command from E-323, we hear a low air alarm on the second floor in the Bravo-Charlie corner."
- N. A low air alarm sounding in a hazardous atmosphere without a crew status notification to the IC within one minute shall be considered a firefighter mayday emergency until proven otherwise.