

New South Wales Fire Brigades Safety Bulletin 2010/05



SCBA pre-operational checks

Issue

The SCBA pre-operational check not only ensures that SCBA is ready for immediate use, but also reinforces each firefighter's familiarity with a vital piece of safety equipment.

Three potentially serious safety issues have recently been identified:

- The main wheel valves on SCBA sets were left open after a pre-operational check.
- The main wheel valves were turned off after a pre-operational check, but the sets were not bled and were therefore still pressurised.
- A practice of appliance drivers carrying out pre-operational checks on all SCBA sets at permanently staffed stations.

Action required

Station Commanders must ensure that all firefighters conduct pre-operational checks of all SCBA sets in strict accordance with:

- the [SIMS worksheet for BA sets](#) and
- Standard Operational Guideline 9.3, [Breathing apparatus servicing](#).

NOTE

The practice of appliance drivers carrying out pre-operational checks on SCBAs on behalf of permanent firefighters and officers is to cease immediately.

Wearing SCBA

To ensure an adequate supply of air to the wearer, the main wheel valve must be fully opened. Firefighters should use the buddy system to check each other's main wheel valve to ensure it is fully open.

Responsibilities

All permanent firefighters and officers must check their own SCBA set at the start of shift.

Permanent Station Officers at stations with retained staff must carry out pre-operational checks on all retained firefighters' SCBA sets at the start of shift.

Engine Keepers at fully retained stations must carry out a pre-operational check at least once a week.

All firefighters must conduct a full pre-operational check:

- immediately before wearing SCBA, and
- after wearing SCBA, changing out a cylinder or setting up extended duration breathing apparatus.

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	A	B	C	D	Other
Noted: Station Commander					
Checked: Duty Commander					

Previous Safety Bulletin: 2010/04 Responding from stations – safety precautions