

# New South Wales Fire Brigades

## SAFETY BULLETIN 2009/04

### Hazardous atmospheres



#### Issue

At a recent incident firefighters were exposed to a fumigant after responding to reports of smoke issuing from a residential unit. An investigation has found that exposed personnel were not wearing Self Contained Breathing Apparatus when gaining entry to the affected premises.

#### Current situation

All personnel are reminded that under the Fire Brigades Regulation 2008 it is essential to acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills relevant to the functions of a firefighter.

There are several NSWFB operational policies and procedures applicable to this type of incident including:

- In Orders 2004/8, [Fumigation or fogging of premises](#)
- Operations Bulletin 2004/2, [Fumigation or fogging of premises](#)
- Standard Operational Guideline 9.1, [Breathing apparatus use](#)
- Standard Operational Guideline 9.2, [Breathing apparatus safe working practices](#)
- Standard Operational Guideline 4.2, [Structure fire risks and precautions](#)

#### Action

Operational personnel must ensure that they are familiar with these operational policies and procedures. Incident Controllers must also ensure that an effective size up is conducted at all incidents where hazardous atmospheres may be present.

A risk assessment must be undertaken by the Incident Controller so that adequate control measures are developed to ensure the safety of firefighters and non-operational personnel in attendance.

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Contact Officer	File Number	Date
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Previous Safety Bulletin: 2009/03, Damage to SCBA face masks