NEW CASTLE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
MANDATORY MASK POLICY

1.0 SCOPE and AUTHORITY

This procedure applies to all New Castle Fire District No. 1 members. This document takes effect on October 1, 1999, and the Chief of the Chappaqua Fire Department has agreed to rescind all previous orders or operating procedures regarding this subject in their respective departments. This document shall not in any way alter, impede, diminish, or negate the authority of the Chief under any law of the State of New York within his own department, district, and/or jurisdiction.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the operating procedure is to establish a uniform policy on member safety. This standard is intended to meet the requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120, 1910.134, and 1910.156. This procedure is not intended to provide instructions for every situation that may arise (See 3.2).

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 All members of the New Castle Fire District No. 1 are responsible for insuring that this policy is adhered to.

3.2 In those circumstances beyond the scope of this order, the Incident Commander at the scene of the fire or emergency shall use his own discretion in complying with the intent of this order.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

It is the intent of these departments to protect all members while operating at the scene of the fire or emergency in IDLH atmospheres. IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health) means an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Fire Department Personnel working in the interior of structural fires beyond the insipient stage or at outside positions where they may be exposed to heavy smoke or toxic conditions are deemed to be operating in an IDLH atmosphere, and shall wear SCBA.

5.2 Chief and Company Officers shall ensure that the self-contained breathing apparatus are worn as directed in the preceding paragraph. This includes first-arriving engine and ladder company members.

5.3 It is the intent of the department to have all members wear self-contained breathing apparatus at all structural fires and toxic accidents, in accordance with the following guidelines:

5.4 Members raising ladders, operating lines outside a fire building, performing exterior ventilation (roof, etc.) or other exterior activity are not required to wear breathing apparatus (when not in conflict with paragraph 5.1).

5.5 Company Officers shall be protected with masks when operating in any area where their subordinates are working with masks. When a company officer leaves a contaminated area to service his mask, he shall provide for supervision of his unit by a subordinate, or maintain supervision from a safe location when possible until his mask is serviced.

5.6 If one member of a mask-equipped operative team is required to leave a contaminated area, he shall be accompanied by his partner, except during overhaul when visibility is adequate.

5.7 Only the Incident Commander or an officer in command of a sector may discontinue the wearing of masks by members using same, and only when atmospheric conditions are no longer IDLH. Premature removal of SCBA must be avoided at all times. Fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated prior to removal of SCBA. Prudent judgment by officers should be exercised in the removal of masks during overhaul operations.

5.8 Members operating with masks in smoke conditions, or a toxic atmosphere, should not remove mask except under the following conditions:

a. Cylinder is depleted
b. Unit malfunctions so as to cut off air supply.

In all other circumstances, and where possible in above listed instances, members shall return to an uncontaminated area before face piece is removed.

5.9 Members shall conserve operating time of masks by donning face piece just prior to entry into contaminated area. Before entry into the contaminated area the member will conduct a user seal check. This check is to determine that the mask is properly seated to the face.

5.10 Members responding to Full Assignments or Multiple Alarms shall have their breathing apparatus strapped on when reporting in, unless otherwise ordered.

5.11 When breathing apparatus are removed, they shall not be dropped or left in an area where they will be subjected to damage. When it is determined that completion of operations may continue without masks, Firefighters shall secure their mask in a safe location

5.12 If it is decided to remove breathing apparatus to a centrally located area in the street, they shall not be placed in an area where they can sustain damage or not be observed. Cylinder to be changed when reading is below 4,000 psi on Scott 4.5.

6.0 MASK READINESS AND INSPECTION

6.1 All SCBA shall be inspected immediately during hose duty and after use.

6.2 SCBA units are to be inspected as follows:

a. Sufficient air pressure in cylinder (4,000 psi on Scott 4.5).

b. Proper position of valves - cylinder/regulators.

c. Check condition of low-pressure hose.

d. Face piece fully loosened and lens intact.

e. Harness straps and waist belt properly adjusted.

f. Check on cleanliness of complete SCBA. Clean if needed.

g. Proper storage on apparatus.

h. PASS device properly affixed to SCBA.

6.3 Members will perform the operational inspection on SCBA units after each use, but not less than weekly as recommended by the manufacturer for that make and model SCBA unit. See Appendix A (Scott Operational Inspection).

6.4 A defect or problem with the SCBA should be immediately reported to the Company officer for proper follow-up. Proper department protocol must be followed and appropriate notes must be entered if the SCBA is taken out of service or replaced with another unit.

6.5 The company officer shall be responsible for monitoring above readiness procedures concerning compliance, training needs, and SCBA maintenance needs.

6.6 The company commander shall ensure that all SCBA are identifiably marked and that files are kept up to date to show if SCBA is in service, out of service, out for repair or any other needed information. If a SCBA should fail while being used, it is to be plainly marked and placed in a location where it will not be accidentally used again.

7.0. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

7.1 The following procedure shall be used after each use and for preparing the SCBA for storage/standby:

a. Inspect the SCBA for worn or aging rubber parts or damaged components,

b. If in good condition, carefully wash face piece assembly with the Scott Corp. approved SCBA mask cleaner/disinfectant provided by your department. See Appendix B (Scott Cleaning Directions)

c. Rinse face piece thoroughly and allow to completely air dry.

d. Damp sponge dirt accumulation from the rest of the SCBA.

e. Replace the SCBA to its proper place, making sure all components are thoroughly dry, straps in place, the cylinder is fully charged, the cylinder valve is fully closed and the BYPASS valve is fully closed.

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Members operating with masks should work in teams of two or more and maintain contact with members outside who are wearing masks and who are ready to assist if needed. When such members operate in areas remote from the main area of operations, one member must be portable radio equipped and frequent communication with their Company Officer is necessary.

8.2 Adequate radio communication may be attained by placing the microphone against the lens of the face piece.

a. Remove the microphone from the harness holding device.

b. Place the microphone against the lens in the temple area, making sure it is not partially on the rubber seal.

c. After completing transmission, the microphone can be returned to the harness holding device.

8.3 Radio communication may also be accomplished with the microphone placed against the side of the throat.

9.0. MEDICAL EVALUATIONS

Medical evaluations are conducted for each member in accordance with 29CFR1910 .1020 and 29CFR1910.134 to determine his ability to perform firefighting duties and his fitness for the use of SCBA.

10.0 PASS (Personal Alert Safety System)

10.1 Procedures: All SCBA are equipped with a PASS device. It shall be activated prior to entering the structure or hazardous area. It shall remain in the on position at all times in the building or hazardous area. The device is intended to help save your life should you become disoriented, lost, trapped, low on air or in need of assistance for any other reason. As in any lifesaving device, it will only assist if properly used. The device should be tested each time that the breathing apparatus is checked and prior to each use. This could save your life.

10.2 Maintenance: The unit shall be checked for operational readiness each time the breathing apparatus is used to ensure the battery is adequately charged and the unit is functional.

11.0 TRAINING

11.1 Instructions for all SCBA in use within member's own departments are posted in all fire stations.

11.2 All new members will be comprehensively tested in the use of SCBA during his probationary period.

11.3 Ongoing company drills will be periodically conducted to maintain members proficiency in the use of SCBA.

12.0 PROGRAM EVALUATION

12.1 The Chief shall conduct evaluations as necessary to ensure that the provisions of this policy are being effectively implemented and that it continues to be effective.

12.2 The Chief shall regularly consult members who are required to use SCBA to assess the employee's views on program effectiveness, and to identify any problems. Any problems identified in such assessments shall be corrected. Factors to be assessed include, but are not limited to SCBA fit, proper SCBA use under conditions that the member encounters, and proper SCBA maintenance.

13.0 RECORDKEEPING

13.1 The Department shall maintain written records regarding medical evaluations, fit testing, training and the SCBA program.

14.0 MANDATORY FIT TEST

Members MUST pass a Yearly Mandatory Fit Test.

New Castle Fire District No. 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the New Castle Fire District No. 1 Mandatory Mask Policy. I understand that I will be responsible for reading the material contained therein. I understand that if I have any questions regarding the procedures outlined within the document, I may ask a Chief for clarification

Print Name:

Signed:

Date: