
S.O.P. #: 400-37

SUBJECT: AIR UNIT OPERATIONS

Objective: To establish the procedures for the care and operation of air units.

Safety: Production of clean breathing air is vital to the health and safety of all members. It shall be the responsibility of the Company Commanders of the stations where the unit is assigned to ensure all personnel under their command have been trained on the use and care of the air unit.

Note: Company Commanders should make every effort to utilize personnel that are normally assigned to the station where the air unit is assigned.

Section 1: Incident and training operations

- A. Air unit operators will work with the Incident Commander to determine the most appropriate location to set up. Consideration should be taken that the air unit is not set up in an area that may become an IDLH situation, creating a potential hazard for the operator and the compressor.
- B. The location established for the air unit should be relatively flat. Operating the compressor while the unit is parked at extreme angles may cause damage.
- C. The awning shall not be deployed in conditions of high winds.
- D. At a minimum, the operator shall utilize eye, hearing and hand protection while running the compressor and filling cylinders.
- E. SCBA cylinders shall receive gross decontamination prior to being taken to the air unit for refilling.
- F. After each cylinder is filled, the operator shall document the cylinder number (ie: E16-3) into the log book along with the name of the operator and the date.
- G. Once the air unit is cleared and demobilized, the operator shall inspect the fill station and compressor for leaks.
- H. The condensate tank shall be drained into the collection bucket after each use.
- I. Air units are intended for emergency operations and shall not be used to supplement other operations when alternative resources are available (ie. Fixed compressors).

Section 2: Refilling of station cascades

- A. The Company Commander shall contact the closest air unit to arrange for refilling of station air cascade systems.
- B. Refilling of station air cascades will be completed within 5 days of being notified, the officer taking the call will be responsible to confirm the refilling date.
- C. The operator shall record the following in the log book:
 - a. Station number
 - b. Operator name
 - c. Date refilled

Section 3: Maintenance and care of air units

- A. The air units shall have a pre-trip inspection completed and documented per current policy (400-09).
- B. The compressor shall run for a period of 30 minutes during the Sunday equipment check.
- C. On board air cylinders shall remain above 5700 psi.
- D. Any deficiencies or defects to the vehicle or compressor that are discovered shall be reported using the appropriate work request system.
- E. Members shall not attempt to make repairs to the compressor. All compressor repairs will be completed by a Breathing Apparatus Repair Technician.
- F. No storage is permitted in the compartments housing the compressor or the fill station unless approved and mounted by the manufacturer, BA Shop, or Fire Maintenance.
- G. SCBA cylinders shall not be stowed in the bottle storage racks when the air unit is in motion.
- H. Due to the sensitive nature of the equipment mounted on the air unit, extreme caution shall be used when cleaning compartments with water.
- I. Log book records are to be retained for six months.
- J. The BA Shop shall be responsible to ensure air testing is compliant with NFPA 1989.