

## **MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPIRATOR PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE** The Occupation Safety & Health Administration General Industry Standards, specifically 1910.134 requires that a Respiratory Protection Program Shall be established whenever respirators are required to be used in an occupational setting. The program is guideline for regulatory compliance and to prevent firefighter exposure to atmospheric contaminants and oxygen deficient atmospheres which are hazardous to life and health.

### **SCOPE AND APPLICATION**

This written respirator program has been approved for the Middletown Township Fire Department. To all firefighters assigned to wear respirators.

**Established:** January 17, 2005

**Signed** 

Rick Hibell Chief 2015

**Review** January 1, 2013

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Middletown Township Fire Department:**

- \* Shall determine the need for respiratory protection
- \* Establish & maintain a Respiratory Protection Program in compliance with all requirements of 1910.134 of the OSHA standards.
- \* Provide firefighters in the program with respirators appropriate to the Purpose intended.

#### **Firefighters:**

- \* Shall wear assigned respirator when and where required in the manner in which they were trained.
- \* Care for and maintain their respirators as instructed, and store them in a clean and sanitary location.
- \* Inform the Company Officer if the respirator no longer fits well, and request a new one that fits properly.
- \* Inform a Chief Officer other Program Administrator of any respiratory Hazards that are not adequately addressed in the workplace and of an other concerns regarding the program.
- \* Firefighters are not permitted to wear tight fitting respirators if they have any condition such s facial scars, beards or other facial hair, or missing

dentures that prevents them from achieving a good face piece to face seal. Firefighters are not permitted to wear headphones, jewelry, glasses, or other articles that may interfere with the face piece to face seal.

### Procedures for IDLH Atmospheres (2 In 2 Out):

The following are not meant to preclude an Incident Commander from starting suppression (not entering) or rescue operations (entering) in a structural incident. The requirement intends that the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) be established as soon as practical to ensure safety of firefighters, yet not detract from the responsibility to provide rescue and suppression to the citizens of the Middletown Township.

"Rapid Intervention Team" as described in NFPA 15006-5:

A rapid intervention crew shall consist of at least 2 members and shall be available for rescue of a member or a team if the need arises. Rapid intervention crews shall be fully equipped with the appropriate protective clothing, protective equipment, SCBA, and any specialized rescue equipment that might be needed given the specifics of the operation underway.

The composition and structure of the RIT shall be permitted to be flexible based on the type of incident and the size and complexity of operations. The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation and the risks to operating teams and shall provide one or more rapid intervention crews commensurate with the needs of the operation.

In the early stages of an incident, which includes the deployment of a fire department's initial attack assignment, the rapid intervention crew(s) shall be in compliance with NFPA 1500 6-4.4 and 6-4.2 and either one of the following:

- (a) On-scene members designated and dedicated as rapid intervention crew(s).
- (b) On-scene members performing other functions but ready to re-deploy to perform rapid intervention crew functions. The assignment of any personnel shall not be permitted as members of the rapid intervention crew if abandoning their critical task(s) to perform rescue clearly jeopardizes the safety & health of any firefighter operating at the incident.

While working in IDLH atmospheres, during interior firefighting operations in fires that have progressed beyond the incipient stage, or Haz-Mat Operations, firefighters entering will work in teams having a minimum of 2 persons who remain in visual or voice contact at all times and during time of overhaul.

