



SHROPSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service

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**BRIGADE ORDER
TRAINING
NO. 3**

PART 1

**BREATHING
APPARATUS
TRAINING**

PART 1 – BREATHING APPARATUS TRAINING

PURPOSE

To outline the method of Breathing Apparatus wearer training and assessment, the Brigade adopts to ensure the health, safety and competence of its staff.

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In strategic aim 3 we state that “Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service will secure the highest level of safety and welfare for all staff by providing effective supervision, training, equipment and systems of work.”

Our corporate aim is to ensure that all employees are competent and able to perform their role.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW

The **Assistant Chief Officer** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

The **Training Delivery Manager** will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Training Delivery Manager** will review this Order annually in *May* and as and when organisational change takes place.

Comment [T1]: Human Resource and Development Manager

INTRODUCTION

To secure the health, safety and welfare of its staff at some incidents it is necessary for staff to be trained and assessed in the safe and effective use of breathing apparatus.

All operational watch-based and retained personnel in Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are required to be trained and assessed in the use of self-contained, compressed air Breathing Apparatus currently in use in the Brigade, in order to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence.

To meet its obligations under legislative requirements the Service has adopted the guidance on Breathing Apparatus Command and Control Procedures as set out in the Home Office Technical Bulletin 1/1997 (as amended).

INITIAL TRAINING

All wholetime recruit firefighters will receive instruction in the use of breathing apparatus as part of their initial recruit course. Areas of training not covered by the course providers will be addressed by the Training Centre as part of a recruit induction course on return to brigade.

Wholetime firefighters who transfer from other brigades will be assessed to determine potential differences in equipment and procedures and will be similarly updated on an induction course.

All retained recruit firefighters will receive instruction in the use of breathing apparatus as part of their recruit course. Details of the course are set out in **Brigade Order Training No 3 Part 2 Retained Firefighter Recruit Training**.

ON STATION TRAINING

Breathing apparatus training forms part of the Annual Continuation Training Programme. Watch/Station Commanders are required to provide staff with sufficient training opportunities to maintain competence as outlined in the Individual Development Records.

Comment [T2]: Individual Development Record

Information on B.A. techniques and procedures is available in the **Fire Service Manual Volume 2 'Fire Service Operations' and the Brigade 'B.A. Assessment' Study Pack**.

The brigade has provided a number of specifically designed and strategically located breathing apparatus training complexes throughout the county. In addition Watch/Station Commanders may use alternative venues providing a suitable risk assessment has been carried out.

In addition firefighters will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at real incidents throughout the year. Debriefs following incidents will identify areas of good practice and areas where further training is required.

REFRESHER TRAINING/ASSESSMENT

The Department of Transport and Local Government and the Regions recommends that operational firefighters should receive one day's refresher training every year.

As part of the modular training system all operational watch-based staff and retained personnel attend a one-day Breathing Apparatus Assessment, details of which are set out in **Brigade Order Training No 3 Specific Training** once in every period of twelve months.

In addition to the assessment there is an opportunity to take part in real fire exercises during the year and to take part in Breathing Apparatus training organised by local BA instructors at Satellite Training Centres.

This training allows the brigade to both assess staff in this risk critical skill and also to give any updates necessary to staff.

RECORDING SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

Records of all continuation training as well as training on centrally run course will be maintained in the Individual Development Record. Records of operational wears will also be recorded.

Comment [T3]: Individual Development Record

AUDIT AND REVIEW

Watch/Station Commanders, Incident Commanders and Performance Review Staff will regularly monitor skills of staff at operational incidents and during drills.

Staff will reflect on personal performance during debriefs of operational incidents and request further training or practice from their Watch/Station Commanders as required.

Training staff will assess competence in core skills on an annual basis (as detailed above) and provide Watch/Station Commanders with guidance on any areas of weakness as a result of the assessment.