



International
Association
of Fire Chiefs



National
Fire Protection
Association

Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills

SECOND EDITION

Chapter 2

Fire Fighter Safety

Skill Drill 2-1

Donning Personal Protective Clothing (1 of 4)



1. Place your equipment in a logical order for donning.

2. Place your protective hood over your head and down around your neck.

Skill Drill 2-1

Donning Personal Protective Clothing (2 of 4)



3. Put on your boots and bunker pants. Place the suspenders over your shoulders.



4. Put on your turnout coat and close the front of the coat.

Skill Drill 2-1

Donning Personal Protective Clothing (3 of 4)



5. Place your helmet on your head and adjust the chin strap securely. Turn up your coat collar.



6. Put on your gloves.

Skill Drill 2-1

Donning Personal Protective Clothing (4 of 4)



7. Have your partner check your clothing.

Skill Drill 2-2

Doffing Personal Protective Clothing (1 of 3)



1. Remove your gloves.



2. Open the collar of your turnout coat.

Skill Drill 2-2

Doffing Personal Protective Clothing (2 of 3)



3. Release the helmet chin strap and remove your helmet.



4. Remove your turnout coat.

Skill Drill 2-2

Doffing Personal Protective Clothing (3 of 3)



5. Remove your protective hood.



6. Remove your bunker pants and boots.

Skill Drill 2-3

Donning SCBA from an Apparatus Seat Mount (1 of 4)



1. Safely mount the apparatus and sit in the seat, placing your arms through the SCBA shoulder straps.

2. Partially tighten the shoulder straps. When the apparatus stops, release the SCBA from its brackets.

Skill Drill 2-3

Donning SCBA from an Apparatus Seat Mount (2 of 4)



3. Attach the waist belt and cinch down.



4. Adjust the shoulder straps until they are tight.

Skill Drill 2-3

Donning SCBA from an Apparatus Seat Mount (3 of 4)



5. Open the main cylinder valve.



6. Remove your helmet and pull the hood back. Don the face piece. Replace the protective hood and helmet.

Skill Drill 2-3

Donning SCBA from an Apparatus Seat Mount (4 of 4)



7. If necessary, connect the regulator to the face piece.

8. Activate the air flow and PASS alarm.

Skill Drill 2-4

Donning SCBA from a Side-Mounted Compartment (1 of 2)

1. Stand in front of the SCBA bracket and fully open the main cylinder valve.
2. Turn your back toward the SCBA, slide your arms through the shoulder straps, and partially tighten the straps.
3. Release the SCBA from the bracket and step away from the apparatus.
4. Attach the waist belt and tighten it.
5. Adjust the shoulder straps.

Skill Drill 2-4

Donning SCBA from a Side-Mounted Compartment (2 of 2)

6. Remove your helmet and pull the hood back.
7. Don the face piece and check for an adequate seal.
8. Pull the protective hood into position, replace your helmet, and secure the chin strap.
9. If necessary, connect the regulator to the face piece.
10. Activate the air flow and PASS alarm.

Skill Drill 2-5

Donning SCBA Using the Over-the-Head Method (1 of 3)



1. Open the case and lay out the SCBA with the cylinder valve away and the shoulder straps to the side.

2. Fully open the main cylinder valve.

Skill Drill 2-5

Donning SCBA Using the Over-the-Head Method (2 of 3)



3. Bend down and grasp the backplate with both hands. Lift the SCBA over your head. Rotate the SCBA.

4. Slide the SCBA down your back while your arms slide into the shoulder straps. Tighten the straps.

Skill Drill 2-5

Donning SCBA Using the Over-the-Head Method (3 of 3)



5. Remove your helmet and pull the hood back. Don the face piece. Replace your helmet and protective hood.

6. If necessary, connect the regulator to the face piece. Activate the air flow and PASS alarm.

Skill Drill 2-6

Donning SCBA Using the Coat Method (1 of 4)



1. Open the case and lay out the SCBA. Fully open the main cylinder valve.

2. Lift the SCBA and swing it over your dominant shoulder.

Skill Drill 2-6

Donning SCBA Using the Coat Method (2 of 4)



3. Slide your other hand between the SCBA cylinder and the corresponding shoulder strap.



4. Tighten the shoulder straps.

Skill Drill 2-6

Donning SCBA Using the Coat Method (3 of 4)



5. Attach the waist belt and adjust its tightness.



6. Remove your helmet and pull your hood back. Don the face piece and check for an adequate seal.

Skill Drill 2-6

Donning SCBA Using the Coat Method (4 of 4)



7. Replace the helmet and hood, and secure the chin strap. If necessary, connect the regulator to the face piece. Activate the air flow and PASS alarm.

Skill Drill 2-7

Donning SCBA from a Seat-Mounted Position with a Safety Latch (1 of 2)



1. Place your dominant arm between the shoulder strap and the SCBA bottle.



2. Tighten the shoulder straps.

Skill Drill 2-7

Donning SCBA from a Seat-Mounted Position with a Safety Latch (2 of 2)



3. Attach the waist belt and adjust its tightness.

4. If the apparatus has a SCBA locking device, detach the device from the SCBA.

Skill Drill 2-8

Donning a Face Piece (1 of 4)



1. Fully extend the straps on the face piece.



2. Place your chin in the chin pocket.

Skill Drill 2-8

Donning a Face Piece (2 of 4)



3. Fit the face piece to your face, bringing the straps or webbing over your head.



4. Tighten the lowest two straps.

Skill Drill 2-8

Donning a Face Piece (3 of 4)



5. If there are more straps, tighten the top straps last.

6. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to check for a proper seal.

Skill Drill 2-8

Donning a Face Piece (4 of 4)



7. Pull your protective hood up so that it covers all bare skin. Don your helmet and secure the chin strap.

8. Install the regulator on your face piece or attach the low-pressure air supply hose to the regulator.

Skill Drill 2-10

Doffing SCBA (1 of 5)



1. Remove your gloves.
Remove the regulator from the face piece or disconnect the low-pressure hose.



2. Remove your helmet and pull the protective hood down around your neck.

Skill Drill 2-10

Doffing SCBA (2 of 5)



3. Loosen the face piece straps.



4. Remove your face piece.

Skill Drill 2-10

Doffing SCBA (3 of 5)



5. Release your waist belt.



6. Loosen the shoulder straps and remove the SCBA.

Skill Drill 2-10

Doffing SCBA (4 of 5)



7. Shut off the air-cylinder valve.



8. Bleed the air pressure from the regulator.

Skill Drill 2-10

Doffing SCBA (5 of 5)



9. Place the SCBA in a safe location.

Skill Drill 2-12

Monthly SCBA Inspection (1 of 5)



1. Remove the air cylinder from the SCBA harness and check the hydrostatic test date.

2. Check the air cylinder for damage or wear.

Skill Drill 2-12

Monthly SCBA Inspection (2 of 5)



3. Inspect the SCBA shoulder straps and waist belt for damage, cuts, burns, or wear.



4. Check all buckles and fasteners to ensure they work properly. Examine the backplate.

Skill Drill 2-12

Monthly SCBA Inspection (3 of 5)



5. Make sure all connection points operate properly. Lubricate them if recommended.



6. Reattach the air cylinder to the SCBA harness.

Skill Drill 2-12

Monthly SCBA Inspection (4 of 5)



7. Check all hoses and connection points for wear, cuts, or damage.

8. Open the air-cylinder valve. Compare the readings on the gauges to ensure they match.

Skill Drill 2-12

Monthly SCBA Inspection (5 of 5)



9. Attach the face piece and check the regulator for proper operation and test the PASS alarm and low-pressure alarm.

Skill Drill 2-13

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder (1 of 5)



1. Place the SCBA on the floor or a bench.



2. Turn off the cylinder valve.

Skill Drill 2-13

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder (2 of 5)



3. Open the purge valve to bleed off the pressure.



4. Disconnect the high-pressure supply hose.

Skill Drill 2-13

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder (3 of 5)



5. Release the cylinder from the backpack.



6. Slide a full cylinder into the backpack. Align the outlet to the supply hose. Lock the cylinder in place.

Skill Drill 2-13

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder (4 of 5)



7. Check that the "O" ring is present and in good shape.



8. Connect the high-pressure hose to the air cylinder.

Skill Drill 2-13

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder (5 of 5)



9. Open the cylinder valve.
Check the gauge reading.

Skill Drill 2-14

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder on Another Fire Fighter (1 of 5)



1. Remove the regulator or the face piece so that you can breathe ambient air.

2. Turn off the cylinder valve on the used cylinder.

Skill Drill 2-14

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder on Another Fire Fighter (2 of 5)



3. Open the purge valve to bleed off pressure from the high-pressure supply line.

4. Disconnect the high-pressure supply hose.

Skill Drill 2-14

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder on Another Fire Fighter (3 of 5)



5. Release the SCBA cylinder from the backpack assembly and set it aside.

6. Slide the full SCBA cylinder into the backpack.

Skill Drill 2-14

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder on Another Fire Fighter (4 of 5)



7. Check for the presence and satisfactory condition of the "O" ring.

8. Lock the SCBA cylinder into place.

Skill Drill 2-14

Replacing an SCBA Cylinder on Another Fire Fighter (5 of 5)



9. Connect the high-pressure hose to the SCBA cylinder.



10. Open the cylinder valve and notify the fire fighter that the SCBA cylinder change is complete.

Skill Drill 2-16

Cleaning SCBA (1 of 5)



1. Inspect the SCBA for any damage that may have occurred before cleaning.



2. Remove the face piece from the regulator. On some models, the regulator also can be removed.

Skill Drill 2-16

Cleaning SCBA (2 of 5)



3. Detach the SCBA cylinder from the harness.

4. Rinse all parts of the SCBA with clean water. Water from a garden hose can be used for this step.

Skill Drill 2-16

Cleaning SCBA (3 of 5)



5. Scrub the SCBA cylinder and harness. Rinse and set these pieces aside to dry.

6. In a 5-gallon bucket, make a mixture of mild soap and water.

Skill Drill 2-16

Cleaning SCBA (4 of 5)



7. Submerge the SCBA face piece into the soapy water or cleaning solution.

8. Clean the regulator with the soapy water or cleaning solution, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Skill Drill 2-16

Cleaning SCBA (5 of 5)



9. Completely rinse the face piece and the regulator with clean water. Set them aside and allow them to dry. Reassemble and inspect the entire SCBA.