

Appendix

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PSFA Facial Hair Policy

Purpose: To provide guidance on the presence of facial hair when using respiratory protection during training programs and certification tests.

Scope: This guidance applies to all individuals who are directly involved or may become directly involved in training or certification tests where respiratory protection is or may be required. This includes but is not limited to instructional staff, students, certification candidates, evaluators, and support personnel.

This policy applies to courses conducted in the PSFA Resident, Academy-on-the-Road, Alternative Energy Emergency Response, and Local-Level training programs or in tests conducted within the PA Fire Service Voluntary Certification program.

This policy supersedes the Facial Hair/Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Use Memo dated May 6, 2013.

Policy: Facial hair, other than a well-trimmed mustache, is prohibited when respiratory protection is worn in training or in certification tests where real or simulated hazardous or Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres exist.

Procedure: Individuals with facial hair that interferes or potentially interferes with a SCBA facepiece seal shall not be permitted in any training or certification test skill whereby the subject matter or skill assessed involves the use or potential use of respiratory protection in real or simulated hazardous or IDLH environments as defined by NIOSH and OSHA or the NFPA. A well-trimmed mustache and/or “other hair” that does not interfere with the facepiece seal is permissible.

The final determination as to whether an individual meets this policy shall rest with the instructor(s) of the class or test-site coordinator (or designee). Instructors, sponsoring officials, and test-site coordinator (or designee) shall be held fully accountable for adherence to this policy or the lack thereof.

Students not in compliance with this policy will be deemed to have NOT satisfied course completion criteria and will not to be issued certificates or other course completion documents.

Definitions

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (OSHA): an atmospheric concentration of any toxic, corrosive or asphyxiant substance that poses an immediate threat to life or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse health effects or would interfere with an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (NFPA 1500): Any condition that would pose an immediate or delayed threat to life, cause irreversible adverse health effects, or Interfere with an individual's ability to escape unaided from a hazardous environment.

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (NIOSH): Acute or short-term exposures to high concentrations of some airborne chemicals that can quickly overwhelm workers, resulting in a wide spectrum of undesirable health outcomes which may include irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, severe irreversible health effects, impairment of the ability to escape from the exposure environment, and, in extreme cases death.

Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/idlh/> (nd)

Sponsoring Official: Educational Training Agency, host fire department, or any organization that is responsible for providing the course and instructor(s).

Other Hair: Hair originating on the scalp or proximal to at the top of the head.

References

- OSFC Entry Level Fire Training Curriculum Policy No. 2005-01 (Rev November 1, 2018)
- OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 1910.134 Subpart 1 PPE.
Retrieved from: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>
- Center for Disease & Control – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/idlh/>
- NFPA 1500: *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program*
- NFPA 1404: *Standard on Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training*
- Manufacturer's Recommendations