

AIR MANAGEMENT

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- An air level of fifty percent (50%) should start an exit plan for all team members.
- It is unacceptable to work in immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) atmospheres with an activated emergency air alarm device.

PROTOCOLS:

1. Prior to entering an IDLH atmosphere, each member must check the air supply level in the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and plan work accordingly.
2. Members must monitor their individual air supply level and notify their supervisor when the air supply drops to fifty percent (50%). The supervisor or team leader should notify the Incident Commander or Division Supervisor that their team needs to cycle out of the IDLH atmosphere.
3. All members should be out of any IDLH atmosphere prior to the activation of any emergency air alarm devices.
4. The Incident Commander should begin to rotate members upon notification of a limited air supply for any member operating in an IDLH atmosphere.
5. Members that are in an IDLH atmosphere when an emergency air alarm device is activated must report their status to the Incident Commander or Division Supervisor. The Incident Commander or Division Supervisor may implement a firefighter rescue strategy to ensure the members and team are safely moved out of the IDLH atmosphere.
6. Members should continue SCBA use during the overhaul phase of the incident where the products of combustion are present, and the production of harmful gases has not been controlled.
7. The Incident Commander should utilize all available tools, and a time benchmark of one hour post fire control, to determine a safe atmosphere for members to operate without the use of SCBA's prior to allowing members to remove SCBA's.