

	UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY INC. Best Operating Guidelines	
	Subject: Air Monitoring	BOG Series Safety
		Initiated 01/01/04
Approved: Fire Chief Chris Hoyt	Revised 03/02/13	

The purpose of this guideline is to make certain that all personnel on the scene of an alarm are kept as safe as possible from some of the most hazardous airborne contaminants. These contaminants include Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Hydrogen Cyanide, Oxygen levels, and Lower Explosion Limit. Exposure to these contaminants is known to cause long lasting harmful effects on one's health.

This applies to any personnel operating in a potential IDLH, whether an incident scene or training. A designated person will monitor for hazardous air levels on all structure fires to determine when SCBA use can be discontinued. This is for the safety and well being of all members of the Union Center Fire Company and its mutual aid companies.

1. IDLH Definition

1.1. An Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere is defined as any confined area in which the level of:

- 1.1.1. Carbon monoxide is above 35 Parts per Million (35 PPM).
- 1.1.2. Hydrogen Cyanide is above 4.7 PPM
- 1.1.3. Hydrogen Sulfide is above 10 PPM
- 1.1.4. Oxygen level is less than 19.5%
- 1.1.5. Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) is above 10%

2. After extinguishment of a fire, a Safety and/or Line Officer will monitor suspected IDLH areas for all levels listed in Section 2.1.

- 2.1. SCBA will be worn in any area with visible smoke or steam.
- 2.2. When there is little to no smoke or steam visible, the area will be monitored using a multi-gas meter.
- 2.3. Safety Officer(s) will ensure that all personnel entering and working within the IDLH atmosphere are using SCBA.
- 2.4. Safety Officer(s) will keep Command and/or Operations aware of the hazard levels.
- 2.5. The Safety Officer(s) will do this via radio, when possible, to ensure all personnel are aware of the needed protection level.
- 2.6. Any person found to be operating in an IDLH without using SCBA shall be immediately sent to EMS for a check of vital signs.

3. Failure to follow this Guideline

- 3.1. Safety Officers shall immediately report to Command and/or Operations if any personnel refuse to use SCBA in an IDLH.
- 3.2. Personnel not using SCBA within an IDLH atmosphere will be asked to do so or leave the structure.
- 3.3. Safety and Line Officer's will have the authority to remove any personnel refusing to abide by this BOG from the IDLH.
- 3.4. Any mutual aid company refusing to abide by this BOG will be released from the scene.