

<b>ERIE COUNTY DIV. OF FIRE SAFETY – TRAINING GUIDELINES</b>				
<b>SOG#</b>	<b>SUPERSEDES</b>	<b>CREATED</b>	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>	<b>REVISION#</b>
1009	---	03/02	---	0
<b>SECTION</b>		<b>AREA</b>		
Training		SCBA Face-piece Seal Protection		

**1009.01 Scope:**

This training procedure establishes guidelines for ensuring the safety of training participants with facial hair or other conditions that may impede the SCBA face-piece to face seal.

**1009.02 Background:**

While it is the responsibility of each firefighter’s employer to ensure their compliance with appropriate OSHA regulations, it is ultimately the responsibility of Erie County Fire Safety Instructors to ensure the safety of all participants.

Thus, it is this division’s policy to enforce compliance with OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134 of students participating at county training facilities or under the direction of county fire instructors.

This policy is a reiteration of the above mentioned OSHA standard and OSHA’s standard interpretations of this policy.

**1009.03 Seal Protection Policy:**

Per the above referenced OSHA standard, students shall not be allowed to wear SCBA or be permitted to participate in evolutions which may expose them to smoke or toxic environments (live fire):

1. If they have facial hair (including beard, goatee or moustache) that comes between the sealing surface of the face-piece and the face
2. If they have any other condition that may interfere with a proper face to face-piece seal or valve function

This is applicable to fire training situations as well as confined-space training programs.