

SOP #2-88 Beard Policy

BARNSTABLE COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE TRAINING ACADEMY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP #2-88

Effective Date: 10-01-88 **Revised:** 2-12-07

Title: Beard Policy

PURPOSE: To provide for the safety of Students and Personnel during training evolutions that requires the use of SCBA.

SCOPE: This SOP covers the wearing of SCBA by students and staff that have beards.

RESPONSIBILITIES: All Support Staff, Instructors, Program Coordinators and Students must be familiar with, understand, and adhere to this SOP at all times.

PROCEDURES:

1. Any person involved in training evolutions that require them to wear self-contained positive pressure breathing apparatus shall not be allowed to wear a beard. No exceptions will be made.
2. Manufacturers of self contained breathing apparatus and O.S.H.A. regulations recommend that persons wearing beards, sideburns or lengthy hair should not wear self contained breathing apparatus since it may interfere with the proper face piece seal and render the unit ineffective.
3. The Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy also endorses this same policy.

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4. The following information is taken from N.F.P.A. 1500-1987 Fire Department Occupational and Health Program.

a. Chapter 5, Section 5-3.10* Beards or facial hair that interfere with the face piece seal shall be prohibited for members required to use SCBA.

b. *A-5-3.10: An effective face to face piece seal is extremely important when using SCBA even with positive pressure SCBA any outward leakage will increase the rate of air consumption, reducing time available for use and safe exit.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND REVIEW:

Activities subject to environmental review by Director and Staff.