



# St. Lawrence County Office of Emergency Services

Policy 2014-3

*SCBA Face-piece Seal Protection*

## Administrative Policy

Approved by: Michael J. LeCuyer  
Director

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Supersedes: 2010-3

### A. Scope

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

### B. Background

- a. While it is the responsibility of each firefighter's employer to ensure their compliance with appropriate OSHA regulations, it is ultimately the responsibility of the instructors to ensure the safety of all participants. Thus, it is this office's policy to enforce compliance with OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134 by students participating at training delivered under the auspices of the SLC OES. This policy is a reiteration of the above mentioned OSHA standard and OSHA's standard interpretations of this policy.

### C. Seal Protection Policy

- a. 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):
  - i. If they have facial hair (including beard, goatee or moustache) that comes between the sealing surface of the face-piece and the face.
  - ii. If they have any other condition that may interfere with a proper face to face-piece seal or valve function.
  - iii. This is applicable to fire training situations as well as confined-space training programs.