NFPA® 1986

Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

2023 Edition

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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 1986

Standard on

Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

2023 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1986, *Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Tactical and Technical Operations Respiratory Protection Equipment and released by the Correlating Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 4, 2022, with an effective date of April 24, 2022, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1986 was approved as an American National Standard on April 24, 2022.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1986

In September 2012, the Standards Council responded to a new project request submitted by Daniel Rossos, Chair of the Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment. The request related to the use of respiratory protection equipment for emergency operations that did not involve structural firefighting. After its review, the Standards Council determined that there is a well-established technical need and a demonstrated demand for a standard addressing design, use, testing, and certification of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) not covered by the requirements of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services*.

The Standards Council also established a new Technical Committee on Tactical and Technical Operations Respiratory Protection Equipment and invited individuals to apply for membership, particularly from law enforcement, federal agencies, defense organizations, hazardous material incident responders, and related agencies to establish a balanced technical committee representing the needs and requirements of the end user community.

The 2017 edition of the standard specified the minimum requirements for the design (Chapter 6), performance (Chapter 7), testing (Chapter 8), and certification (Chapter 4) of new compressed breathing open-circuit SCBA and supplied air respirators (SAR) and for replacement parts, components, and accessories for non-structural firefighting devices.

For the 2023 edition, the cold temperature exposure conditions language has been revised for consistency with NFPA 1987. There have been updates and clarifications to various test methods, including chemical challenges. In addition, the definitions of *breathing air cylinder* and *cylinder* have been replaced with *breathing air pressure vessel* throughout the standard.

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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, performance, testing, and certification of protective clothing and protective equipment manufactured for fire and emergency services organizations and personnel, to protect against exposures encountered during emergency incident operations. This Committee shall also have the primary responsibility for documents on the selection, care, and maintenance of such protective clothing and protective equipment by fire and emergency services organizations and personnel.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on respiratory protection equipment and selection, care, and maintenance of respiratory protection equipment for non-firefighting emergency services operations including, but not limited to, tactical law enforcement, confined space, and hazardous materials operations, during incidents involving hazardous or oxygen-deficient atmospheres. This Committee does not cover respiratory protection equipment for firefighting operations addressed by the Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment.