

NFPA®

1852

**Standard on
Selection, Care, and
Maintenance of
Open-Circuit Self-Contained
Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**

2019



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NFPA® 1852

Standard on

Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

2019 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1852, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on 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 May 4, 2018, with an effective date of May 24, 2018, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1852 was approved as an American National Standard on May 24, 2018.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1852

The technical committee was assigned the responsibility of addressing selection, care, and maintenance issues for open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). To address these issues, the committee developed NFPA 1852, which is oriented to the users of such SCBA and their respective organizations.

This document was developed for organizations that use SCBA for the respiratory protection of their personnel who engage in emergency operations with the goal of reducing the safety risks and potential health risks associated with poorly maintained, contaminated, or damaged SCBA.

This document was also developed to fulfill the SCBA selection, care, and maintenance portions of the overall respiratory protection program required by NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and applies to all SCBA that are certified as compliant with the current and previous editions of NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services*.

During the development of this document, committee member Deputy Chief Robert Kolenda of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bureau of Fire (PBF) worked tirelessly to develop meaningful requirements to assure the safety of fire and emergency services personnel who depend on SCBA for their respiratory protection and their lives. Chief Kolenda lost his son, Pittsburgh Fire Fighter Marc Kolenda, at a fire, due in part to inadequate protection provided by his SCBA.

The first edition, the 2002 edition of NFPA 1852, was acted on by the NFPA membership at its November Association Technical Meeting in Dallas, Texas, on November 13, 2001, and became effective on January 31, 2002.

In the 2008 edition, the committee processed a complete revision of the document including an overall revision of text for clarity and up-to-date terminology. Section 1.3 was revised and restructured to include later editions of NFPA 1981 and to clarify the documents to which this standard applies. Chapter 2 was revised to include the documents referenced within the mandatory sections of the standard and updated editions approved by the committee. Section 3.3 was reviewed and revised as necessary to update or add new definitions according to the project on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment glossary.

Chapter 4 was completely reviewed for upgrades and modifications to existing text as hazards involving SCBA. Section 4.4 (formerly Section 4.3), SCBA Compliance — Upgrades and Retirement, was revised and reformatted to add new requirements for SCBA purchased during the effective periods of the 2000 and 2007 editions of NFPA 1981. In Chapter 5, subsection 5.1.1 was expanded to include selected accessories that could be added to SCBA.