Drill Ground Activity 7: Use SCBA in a Rescue Environment

Description	This skill station provides students with an opportunity to practice using SCBA in a simulated rescue environment.
Timeframe	1 hour 30 minutes
Students	Groups of up to 10 students
Materials	• Appropriate training structure • Full turn out PPE • SCBA with one cylinder filled to capacity
Site Preparation	• Ensure that site is free of all hazards. • Training structure or prop should simulate an actual interior working environment. • Obscure student view with simulated smoke or equivalent. • Student starts outside of building. Instructor will take SCBA, activate PASS device, and place it in the structure.

Instructor Directions	1. Demonstrate and explain the expectation of each part of the drill.
	  • Ask students why we don't train with gloves on if they are worn on the job.
	  • Reinforce how important SCBA orientation is when working in limited visibility.
	  • SCBA straps – run them out all the way so it is easier to put on.
	  • Waist belt – hold at the buckle and run out prior to unclipping, otherwise it's hard to find.
	  • SCBA donning with overhead method – difficult in low profile environments and made challenging by the facepiece, helmet, and potential entanglement above.
	  • SCBA donning with coat method – low profile, won't dislodge helmet or face piece. If you swing around the right shoulder, you will "horse collar" yourself.
	2. Review common SCBA malfunctions and troubleshooting techniques.
	3. Review safety considerations with participants.
	4. Show participants the starting and ending points of the course.
	5. Ensure all participants are wearing full personal protective equipment.
	6. Perform a final safety check prior to performing the evolution.
	7. Debrief with participants:
	  • Was this difficult? Which parts? Why?
	  • What issues did you encounter in each step?
	  • Emphasize consistency: Practice the way you play – same steps in same order every time.
	  • Emphasize of importance of leaving the way you go in and letting someone know if you do not exist the same way.
	  • Canceling the MAYDAY – Did anyone do this? Why is this important?

Student Directions	
Find Downed Fire Fighter	
1. Locate backpack/SCBA (simulating a downed firefighter) by following the sound of the activated PASS device.	
2. Turn off PASS device.	
SCBA Orientation/Familiarization	

3. Orient SCBA (which will be disheveled) by putting cylinder between legs, cylinder down.	
4. Orient regulator shoulder strap and locate low-pressure regulator.	

5. Close the bypass, open cylinder, and go on air.	

6. Negotiate SCBA: loosen both shoulder straps, unbuckle chest strap (if applicable), loosen waist strap, and disconnect.

7. Don SCBA: grasp both shoulder straps (reaching OVER the low-pressure regulator side before grasping the shoulder strap), don SCBA, secure all straps.	
Call the MAYDAY	

8. Instructor will describe a MAYDAY scenario (collapse/lost and disoriented, etc.) and role play as the IC.	
9. Student will call a MAYDAY using Who, What, Where, Air.	

10. When MAYDAY is acknowledged, turn on all personal lights and activate PASS device.	
Find Your Way Out/Exit	
11. Find a way out of structure via find a door, window, hose line etc.	
12. After successfully reaching the exterior, notify I/C of exit, condition, and location.	

If sending two (2) students in at the same time, they will use two (2) SCBAs and work as a team. They will complete the same steps above, but only one member will give the MAYDAY. Upon exiting they may encounter a hose line and will need to work as a team to find a coupling, identify the proper direction by reading the couplings, and continue to a safe exit. As they near the exit, the instructor identifies one of the two members as low on air. The team will need to use the buddy breathing technique to exit safely.