

# Illinois SHA FactSheet

## Fire Departments

(Includes Full-Time and Volunteer)

### Commonly Overlooked Illinois OSHA Requirements:

Some items are paraphrased; please see the listed standard for the complete text.  
This is not a comprehensive list of the Illinois OSHA required regulations for Fire Departments.

-  **Injury Illness Records** - OSHA 300 logs and 300A Yearly Summary forms must be completed for each location even if there are no injuries experienced in the year. (Employers are required to keep the last 5 years on file). [56 IL Admin Code Part 350.260\(a\)](#)
-  **Organizational Statement** - (SOP/SOG) The employer shall prepare and maintain a statement or written policy which establishes the existence of a fire brigade. [29 CFR 1910.156\(b\)\(1\)](#)
-  **B.B.P.** - If firefighters perform extrications or are potentially exposed to blood or bodily fluids an employer must have a written Bloodborne Pathogens Program, annual training, and proof that the potentially exposed employees either have received, been offered, or refused the Hepatitis B Vaccination Series. [29 CFR 1910.1030 \(c\)\(1\)\(i\)](#)
-  **SCBA** - If firefighters are required to wear SCBA, a written respiratory protection program is required. Additionally, the following is required: [29 CFR 1910.134\(c\)\(1\)](#)

**Medical Evaluation:** Firefighters must have a medical evaluation reviewed and approved by a professional licensed health care provider (PLHCP) before fit testing for use of a respirator. [29 CFR 1910.134\(e\)\(1\)](#)

Click the link to find an INFOSHEET which includes the mandatory medical questionnaire to be used for these evaluations. [Medical Evaluation Info Sheet](#)

**Fit-testing:** The employer shall ensure that an employee using a tight-fitting face piece respirator is fit tested prior to initial use of the respirator, whenever a different respirator face piece (size, style, model or make) is used, and at least annually thereafter. [29 CFR 1910.134\(f\)\(2\)](#)

See [29 CFR 1910.134\(f\)\(3\)](#) to determine when the employer shall conduct additional fit testing.

**Training:** The employer is required to provide effective training to employees who are required to use respirators. The training must be comprehensive, understandable, and recur annually and more often if necessary. See [29 CFR 1910.134\(K\)](#) for all items required in the employee training.

**Breathing Air:** Compressed breathing air shall meet at least the requirements for Grade D breathing air described in ANSI/Compressed Gas Association Commodity Specification for Air, G-7.1-1989. [29 CFR 1910.134\(i\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#)

#### For Reference:

-  NFPA 1500, 2013 Edition; 7.11 Breathing Air. Breathing air used to fill SCBA cylinders shall meet the requirements specified in NFPA 1989, *Standard on Breathing Air Quality for Emergency Services Respiratory Protection*.
-  NFPA 1989, 2013 Edition; 5.1 Regular Periodic Testing.
  -  5.1.1 At least quarterly, the organization shall take breathing air samples and submit such samples to an accredited testing laboratory that meets the requirements specified in Chapter 4.

## Illinois OSHA Requirements Cont.

### Compressors:

The employer shall ensure that compressors used to supply breathing air to respirators are constructed and situated so as to: [29 CFR 1910.134\(i\)\(5\)](#)

-  Have suitable in-line air -purifying sorbent beds and filters to further ensure breathing air quality. **Sorbent beds and filters shall be maintained and replaced or refurbished periodically.** [29 CFR 910.134\(i\)\(5\)\(iii\)](#)

-  Have a tag containing the most recent change date and the signature of the person authorized by the employer to perform the change. The tag shall be maintained at the compressor. [29 CFR 1910.134\(i\)\(5\)\(iv\)](#)

### Firefighting equipment: *Departments need to keep written records of inspection and maintenance on ALL equipment.*

The employer shall maintain and inspect, at least annually, firefighting equipment to assure the safe operational condition of the equipment. Portable fire extinguishers and respirators shall be inspected at least monthly. Firefighting equipment that is in damaged or unserviceable condition shall be removed from service and replaced. [29 CFR 1910.156\(d\)](#)

### Hazardous Material Response:

*Emergency response.* Employees who are engaged in responding to hazardous emergency situations at hazardous waste clean-up sites that may expose them to hazardous substances shall be trained at least annually in how to respond to such expected emergencies. [29 CFR 1910.120\(e\)\(7\)](#)

-  The level of required programs and training depends on the level that the fire department responds to a hazardous material release (Awareness/Operations/Technician/Specialist). Any response level above awareness has specific requirements for training, an emergency response plan and several other aspects that must all be documented.

-  See [29 CFR 1910.120\(q\)\(6\)](#) and subsequent standards for the training and program requirements for each level of response.

-  If you have MABAS members on your department, you are required to have their training records if they respond with MABAS at a different level than their home department.

## Federal OSHA Standards

Click the link to access all Federal OSHA standards [OSHA Regulations \(Standards 29 CFR\)](#)

## Illinois On-Site Consultation Program

The Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program provides **FREE** and confidential safety and health advice to small and medium-sized employers committed to improving workplace safety and health.

Our consultants are experts in identifying workplace hazards and making recommendations to eliminate these hazards with the goal of improving workplace safety and health.



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