

**CAL FIRE Butte Unit**  
Policies and Procedures



Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Darren Read, Unit Chief

Approval Date: **August 29, 2016**

Subject: **1700 Safety**  
Specific Subject: **1700.002 Fit Testing Program**

Original Policy Date: **July 22, 2016**  
Revision Date: **March 1, 2017**

**POLICY:**

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144 and 5199, employees using a tight-fitting respirator are required to be fit tested; prior to initial use of the respirator; whenever a different respirator (make, model, style, or size) is used, and at least annually thereafter.

Fit testing procedures shall be done in accordance with CCR, T8, Section 5144 (f) (5) and Appendix A.

If an employee wears a medical respirator for protection against M. Tuberculosis (TB), or other airborne communicable disease exposures, they need to be fit tested annually in the same manner as all other tight fitting respirators as per CCR, Title 8, Section 5199.

**PROCEDURE:**

Fit testing procedures shall be done in accordance with CCR, T8, Section 5144 (f) (5) and Appendix A and 5199.

**Career and volunteer personnel will be medically cleared prior to fit testing.**

- Medical clearance letters will be made available to career personnel in the month of September/October.
- Medical clearance letters will be made available to volunteers during the month of August to afford adequate time to obtain medical evaluation clearance by November.

**Career and volunteer personnel will be fit tested in respirator(s) available for use for the level of training provided.**

- Fire suppression personnel fit test in all SCBA masks available for use within Butte County as well as medical respirator.
- Fire suppression personnel who have had a break in service and fill out paperwork with personnel prior to returning to work; limited term employees, Fire Fighter I's, shall fit test prior to official start date.
- Volunteer firefighters who are CAL-FIRE employees in the BTU unit do not need to complete volunteer fit testing procedures.
- Volunteer firefighters who are CAL FIRE employees in a unit other than BTU are not required to be medically cleared via volunteer procedures, but are required to be fit tested for BTU respiratory masks used in BTU.
- Non-fire suppression personnel with emergency medical service credentials will fit test in medical respirator only.
  - Emergency medical services. Medical care provided pursuant to Title 22, Division 9, by employees who are certified EMR, EMT-1, certified EMT-II, or licensed paramedic personnel to the sick and injured at the scene of an emergency, during transport, or during interfacility transfer.
- Fire Mechanics fit test in half respirator available at Durham Training Office site only.

**Fit testing will occur annually for career and volunteer personnel during the month of November.**

- Fit testing coordinator(s) will travel the unit the month of November to fit test volunteer companies during company drill nights, as well as fit test career personnel to alleviate engine movement.
- All volunteers must complete fit testing prior to December 31. Volunteer firefighters that do not follow through with the above fit testing procedures will be out of compliance with federal law and SOP Manual section 5.18 (Respiratory Protection Program), will be enforced.
- Career personnel who allow their certification to expire will be out of compliance with federal law and cannot respond to any calls until RPP compliance is met.
- The fit test coordinator will notify the Training & Safety Bureau Chief monthly of employees and volunteers that are fit test non-compliant. The Training & Safety Bureau Chief will notify his/her supervisor of any employees or volunteers non-compliant with fit testing.
- Career personnel who enter the Butte Unit after the November fit testing cycle will have to make arrangement to be fit tested once entering the unit.
- Other than the month of November, fit testing will be available at one, if not all, of the following locations: Durham Training Office, Station 71 Richvale, and Station 82 Paradise.

**Fit Testing Location Requirement (TSB, Richvale FS71, Paradise FS82)**

- Provide fit testing for career or volunteer personnel as per CCR T8 5144 and 5199.
- Complete the IIPP-12, provide career or volunteer personnel their completion card from IIPP-12 and forward the main body of IIPP12 card to the Training and Safety Bureau weekly so employee information can be updated in Target Solutions and filed appropriately.

**Fit Test Unit Care and Maintenance**

- Facility assigned a fit testing unit will assure inventory is maintained, equipment is kept clean and all components are functional.
  - Fit Testing Units are appropriately labeled and inventoried prior to distribution
    - TSB Durham, "S2106" unit and accessories
    - Richvale FS71, "S2106-1" unit and accessories
    - Paradise FS82, "S2106-2" unit and accessories
- Facility assigned a fit testing unit will request replacement equipment needs through the fit testing coordinator, generally unit safety officer. (Blank IIPP12, alcohol solution, Bitrex, mask cleaner wipes, P100 masks)

- The unit fit test coordinator (unit safety officer) will make arrangement to collect fit testing units annually for calibration, generally late July/early August, and return once calibration completed.

**Unit Fit Test Coordinator may collect fit testing units during high demand needs, such as:**

- annual volunteer/career fit testing during the month of November
- annual volunteer academy, month of January
- annual Fire Fighter I academies, May-July
- Once high demand needs are met, respective fit testing units will be returned to Richvale FS71 and Paradise FS82 for low frequency needs as personnel transfer in the unit throughout the remainder of the year.