

T E C H N I C A L B U L L E T I N

#65 February 3, 1992

SCBA USED IN EXCESSIVE HEAT OR FLASHOVER

Survivair issued Technical Bulletin Number 30 in 1986 and Technical Bulletin Number 33 in 1987, which require users to perform periodic inspections of facepieces exposed to excessive heat.

Survivair has recently received a report of purported SCBA failure that resulted from exposure of the SCBA to a flashover. Survivair believes that firefighters may be placed at risk from potential failure of SCBA under extreme thermal conditions. We are therefore issuing the following warning, which will be printed on a label and added to each SCBA that Survivair manufactures, and which also will appear in all Survivair SCBA Instruction Manuals. This warning applies to all Survivair NIOSH-certified SCBA, regardless of SCBA manufacturing date.

*******WARNING*******

FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION, SCBA MUST BE WORN AND USED AS SPECIFIED IN MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. DO NOT USE SCBA ALONE FOR ANY FIRE FIGHTING OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS; ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED FOR PROTECTION. USERS MUST CLEAN AND MAINTAIN THE SCBA ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. NO PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CAN PROVIDE COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR ALL CONDITIONS – USE EXTREME CARE FOR ALL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. ACCESSORIES NOT OFFERED BY THE SCBA MANUFACTURER MAY DEGRADE THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS SCBA OR MAY VOID MSHA/NIOSH CERTIFICATION. SCBA MAY CEASE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION IF USED DURING EXCESSIVE HEAT OR FLASHOVER CONDITIONS HARSHER THAN THOSE IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN TESTED. SCBA MUST BE UTILIZED UNDER SUITABLE THERMAL PROTECTIVE GARMENTS DURING EXPOSURE TO EXCESSIVE HEAT OR FLASHOVERS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.