

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

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SCBA COLD WEATHER MAINTENANCE

Each year cold weather creates problems for some SCBA users. Units which are not properly prepared for winter will not operate at peak efficiency.

SURVIVAIR recommends a change of season inspection and increased attention to your preventive maintenance during the winter months. Here are some recommended inspections and procedures which will help prevent cold weather problems.

1. Winter conditions require very dry breathing air. Moisture entering the unit from the cylinder or accidentally injected into the inlet from the outside will cause a freeze up. SCBA breathing air must pass all CGA Grade D quality requirements and have a dew point reading below -65°F (-54°C). Test your compressor for quality and dew point late in the fall, just prior to the cold season.
2. Conduct training sessions for winter operations. For example: do not toss cylinders into a wet or snowy area. The people who are assigned to fill cylinders must properly inspect them, remove ice, clean the threads and take care to prevent water from entering the cylinder.
3. Hi flow conditions caused by leaking facepiece seals, improperly maintained equipment or permitting the regulator to free flow when the facepiece is off will aggravate icing.
4. After cleaning, allow the unit to dry completely before returning it to storage. Be sure the facepiece exhalation valve is dry before placing facepiece in storage.
5. In areas where persistent low temperatures are expected use Christo-lube, part number 910699, for all lubrication.