

Facial Hair & Adornment Policy for Breathing Apparatus (BA) Wearers

Facial hair and grooming compliance is a stipulation for any respiratory protection. In order that breathing apparatus operators deal with emergencies, in an effective manner, certain procedures must be followed.

Standards Australia AS 1715:2009 states the following:

General

Beard growth, some hairstyles and other facial features prevent an adequate seal between the wearers face and the fitting surfaces of a face piece or mouthpiece. Facial hair may also interfere with inhalation and exhalation valve operation. The complete sealing surface of the respirator mask should be in contact with the wearers skin.

Beards

Bearded persons cannot expect to achieve adequate respiratory protection when wearing a full-face piece or a half face piece RPE. Accordingly, one who requires respirator protection shall wear either a full-face piece or half face piece RPE over a beard. When the person at risk has a bushy facial hairstyle, hair trapped between the lips and mouth pieces may prevent a satisfactory seal being obtained.

Moustaches

Moustaches may interfere with the fit of a half face piece respirator and the peripheral seal of a full-face piece respirator. At high rates of work, moustaches may cause inward leakage even when using positive pressure RPE. A moustache that interferes with the seal of the nasal mask will cause exhaled air to pass from the inner mask to the outer mask, resulting in an unacceptable accumulation of carbon dioxide in the inhaled air.

Sideburns

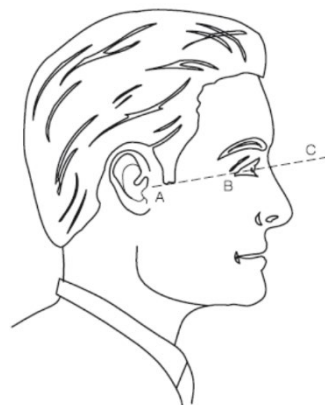
When a full-face piece is being worn, sideburns shall not extend below a line drawn through the top of the tragus (the notch in the cartilage of the ear just above and immediately in front of the ear hole) and the canthus (corner) of the eye. This line is illustrated in the drawing below.

Stubble growth and long hair

Stubble growth, depending on its length and stiffness may interfere with proper sealing of a face piece and it is necessary that male wearers of respirators shave daily. When the hair is worn long, particular care should be taken to ensure that none is trapped beneath the sealing surface.

Other factors

All forms of jewellery that may interfere with the facial seal should not be worn while using respirators. Facial makeup and creams, applied to the face, should not be worn because they may migrate during the period of wear and interfere with the face seal.



Australian Standard 17:15 /2009

Refer: DFES OD 1 Personnel – Directive

1.3 Dress & Grooming

- Cleanly shaven at all times.
- Hair not permitted below bottom lip.
- Moustaches not to exceed below top lip.

Legend:

A = Notch in the cartilage of the ear.

B = Canthus of the eye.

C = Line below which the sideburns should not exceed

Event: First Aid

The scenario will test response to an incident involving multiple casualties and utilising the following competencies:

- Command and control
- Scene management and control
- Triage
- First aid, including patient packaging and removal
- Team safety

The scenario will test response to an incident involving multiple casualties and triage. The team will have an initial briefing, which will be limited to what you would expect in a radio call for assistance.

It is intended that the team will start work as they would at a real emergency. Other personnel may be available for additional information, as you would find at a real emergency.

Hazards as seen at the event are to be treated as seen. The scenario will be 'as is' and any hazards must be dealt with as you would in a real emergency.

If there is an ambulance, in the scenario setting, it is there to be used by the team as deemed necessary by the Captain.

Equipment List for Teams to Provide

- First aid equipment for multiple casualties, including stretchers
- Oxygen therapy and resuscitation units – multiple casualties

Minimum PPE

- Work wear / coveralls
- Safety helmet
- Fire boots
- Safety glasses
- Latex gloves

Please note: Safety gloves must be worn when carrying a stretcher

All team members must have received training in First Aid to the minimum of Cert II or equivalent. This level of competence also extends to any first aid component that may form an element of any other scenario.



Event: Fire Fighting & Breathing Apparatus (BA) Skills

The scenario is intended to assess the responding team's actions in managing a fire.

The teams will be assessed on the following skills and disciplines:

- Command and control
- Communication
- First aid
- Hose techniques and branch handling (pump operator will be provided)
- Breathing apparatus (SCBA), testing, donning, wearing and entry control procedures
- Fire suppression
- Search and rescue techniques
- Moving in smoke and darkness
- Team safety

The team will get an initial short brief at the holding area and then the emergency will be called in by radio.

Once at the site of the incident, it is intended that the team starts work immediately, as they would at a real emergency. Other personnel may be available for additional information, as you would find at a real emergency.

Your own SCBA's will be required for the event, and each team must carry out standard operational checks as they would at any real incident.

Below is the equipment you will be required to bring to MERC. All other equipment required to complete the scenario will be provided. If you want to use your own equipment, feel free to bring what you think you may require.

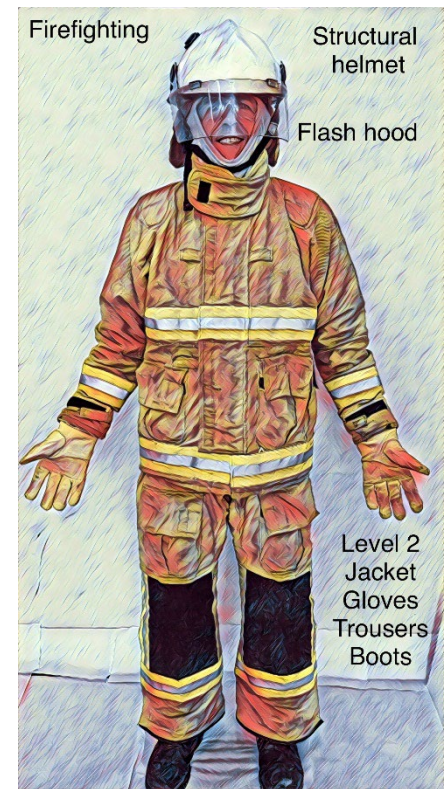
Equipment List for Teams to Provide

- 6 x SCBA, one per team member
- PDAs / DSUs
- Tally passes per team member
- SCBA Entry Control Officer (ECO) board
- First aid equipment, oxygen resuscitation equipment, stretcher or backboards or stokes litter
- Branches will be provided, however if a team wishes to bring their own, it must have a setting of 115 lpm

Minimum PPE

- Level 2 tunic and over-trousers
- Structural fire-fighting helmet with neck flap
- Flash hood
- Clear or smoked safety glasses
- Level 2 / 3 structural firefighting gloves
- Structural firefighting boots

Note: no polyester undergarments are to be worn.



Event: Vertical Rescue

Teams will be expected to demonstrate adequate & effective vertical rescue skills which could include:

- Securing the area
- Danger and hazard identification and control to provide a safe work area
- Team safety
- Effective communication within the team
- Identify injury or illness and effective causality management
- Correct identification and use of anchor points
- Correct and effective vertical rescue skills including but not limited to, fall prevention systems, haulage systems, belaying, ascending, descending and knot tying.
- Efficiency and teamwork
- Equipment care during use and make-up
- Handover of patient to ambulance staff.

The scenario will test response to an incident involving a vertical rescue. Once on scene the teams will receive a short initial briefing that will be limited to what you would expect in a radio call for assistance.

It is intended that the team will get to work after the briefing as they would at a real emergency. People on-scene and incident control will be available for other information.

Equipment List for Teams to Provide:

- All vertical rescue equipment to be able to do a range of vertical rescue techniques not limited to ascending, descending, haulage and belay, etc.
- At least 4 x 50m rescue ropes
- Trauma kit / first aid kit
- O2 therapy unit
- Appropriate stretcher / strop etc.
- Any other tools or equipment you wish to bring based upon your site requirements for attending a vertical rescue.

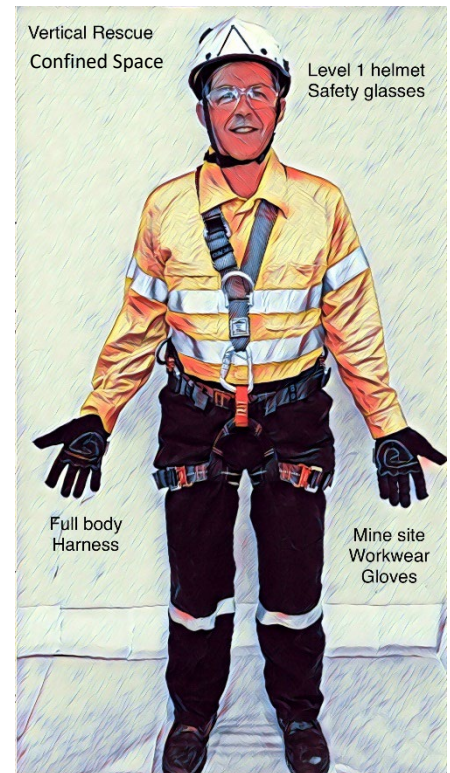
Minimum PPE

- Vertical rescue harness
- Rope Rescue Event: UIAA 106 and EN 12492 rope-rated helmets must be worn
- Clear safety glasses
- Appropriate rope gloves
- Rescue overalls and boots

Please note

- All vertical rescue equipment must be in good condition, clean and within date according to manufacture.
- Single rope techniques for any vertical rescue activity are not permitted. Appropriate two rope systems must be employed.
- Adjudicators will inspect systems employed and equipment used to ensure their suitability.

All rope rescue equipment for lifting and lowering is to be provided by teams. If you are unable to bring your own equipment, please notify the committee and we will endeavour to help.



Event: HAZMAT

The scenario will test response to an incident involving a suspected hazardous material leak and utilising the following competencies:

- Command and control
- Leadership and teamwork
- Application of HAG Guide/HB76/MSDS/local knowledge
- Understanding of response techniques to chemical incidents
- Decontamination processes
- First aid treatment and documentation
- Team safety

The scenario will test response to an incident involving a hazardous material leak.

The initial briefing will be limited to what you would expect in a radio call for assistance. It is intended that the team will get to work as they would at a real emergency. Other personnel may be available for additional information, as you would find at a real emergency.

Equipment List for Teams to Provide

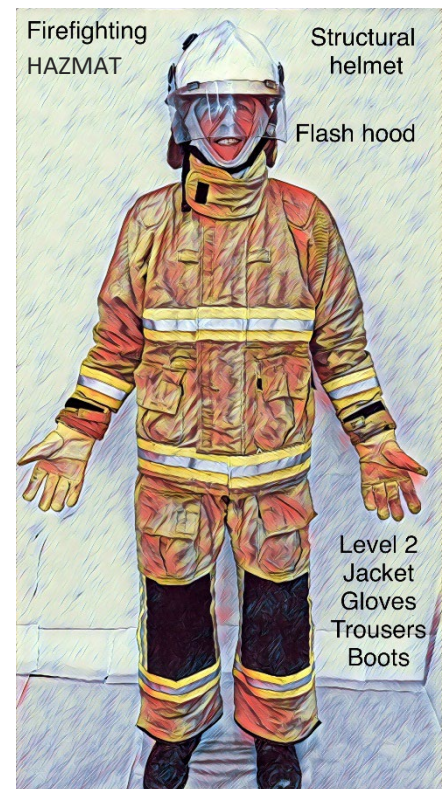
- First aid and oxygen therapy/resuscitation equipment
- Respiratory equipment for casualties, in line with site Confined Space procedures
- Hazmat response PPE (splash suits or fully encapsulating or disposable overalls)
- Decontamination equipment including spill kits and brooms
- Basket stretcher and / or spine board
- General purpose rope
- Breathing apparatus
- ECO board
- Two-way radios for team plus a spare for the adjudicating team
- Gas monitor

Minimum PPE

- Level 2 tunic and pants
- Fire helmet
- Flash hood
- Safety glasses
- Fire gloves
- Fire boots
- 6 x SCBA, one per team member

Minimum PPE to dress down to

- Level 1 overalls or higher (turnout gear preferred)
- Hard hat
- Safety glasses
- All purpose gloves
- Fire boots



Event: Road Crash Rescue

The scenario will test response to an incident involving a vehicle collision and utilising the following competencies:

- Command and control
- Leadership and teamwork
- Understanding of response techniques to vehicle accidents
- Utilising extrication equipment and techniques
- First aid
- Patient access
- Patient packaging
- Patient movement
- Team safety

The scenario will test response to an incident involving a vehicle. The initial briefing will be limited to what you would expect in a radio call for assistance.

Equipment List for Teams to Provide

- First response medical equipment for casualties (O2, DCP).
- Spine board / scoop stretcher
- Appropriate PPE for RCR
- Any RCR gear the team may wish to use (provided the gear is in good working condition and serviceable)
- Hand tools
- Sharps protection

Minimum PPE

- Level 1 pants
- Level 1 tunic
- Fire helmet
- P2 dust mask
- Safety glasses
- Fire gloves
- Fire boots

Please note

- Teams should be mindful of weather conditions and the impact on casualties
- Cutting gear, cribbing, water source and miscellaneous tooling will be supplied. Equipment will be available to view on site.
- Competing teams are permitted to bring and use their own hydraulic cutting equipment. Please advise the committee if this is to happen.



Event: Emergency Response Team Readiness

Scenario will test the teamwork, physical and mental fitness of the team. Team members will be required to undertake a series of tasks and answer theory questions covering all of the scenario disciplines in the competition.

The assessment will test knowledge of:

- Command and control
- Leadership and teamwork
- Collaboration in problem solving
- Team safety
- Fire fighting
- Hazardous materials response
- First aid
- Breathing apparatus
- Confined space rescue
- Vertical rescue
- Road crash rescue

Equipment List for Teams to Provide

- 6 x SCBA sets will be needed in a condition that is ready to don. High pressure testing is required
- Reserve (seventh) team member will be included in the scenario and the Team Captain will act as ECO.
- ECO tally board and marker

Minimum PPE

- Work wear / coveralls
- Safety helmet
- Fire boots
- Safety glasses
- Rope gloves



Event: Confined Space

Specific equipment will typically involve minimum rope equipment and open circuit breathing apparatus.

The specifics of the scenario may also involve HazMat suits and the decontamination process.

The aim of this exercise is to test the emergency response team's competencies and abilities to make the incident scene safe, assess the confined space incident to determine a safe method for entry and safe extrication of any casualties.

Teams will be expected to respond to the incident including:

- Securing the area
- Effective communication within the team
- Danger or hazard identification and control to provide a safe work area
- Identify the cause and need confined space rescue
- Effective casualty management
- Handover of patients to ambulance staff
- Team safety

The initial briefing will be limited to what you would expect in a radio call for assistance.

It is intended the team will start work as they would at a real emergency. Other personnel may be available for additional information, as you would find at a real emergency.

BA will be required for the event. All teams are to carry out high-pressure testing, face seal tests, and low pressure testing as per manufacturer's guidelines prior to use. This will be done inside the scenario.

A sets will need to be carried to the scenario by the team. The scenario will be set in a real confined space (made safe).

Equipment List for Teams to Provide

- 6 x SCBA, one per team member
- Rope access and rescue PPE including harnesses (a minimal set of equipment will be provided – teams may bring their preferred device or haulage systems)
- First response medical equipment

Minimum PPE

- Safety helmet fitted with face shield (optional)
- Safety glasses
- Fire gloves/Hand Gloves
- Wet weather/wellington boots/safety boots

Please note

- **A change of work wear or coveralls will be required**

