

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

#98 June 15, 1996

STORAGE PROCEDURES FOR SURVIVAIR SCBA

SCBA stored with the pneumatic system pressurized can be damaged under high temperature conditions.

With the summer months approaching, Survivair reminds SCBA users of these storage requirements for all SCBA equipment:

1. Clean and inspect the SCBA prior to storage.
2. Close the cylinder valve and open the bypass valve to bleed all pressurized air from the first and second stage regulator systems.
3. Close the bypass valve.
4. Store in a cool, dry location.

Survivair's tests have shown that high temperature conditions (that is, temperatures over 140°F) are potentially damaging to SCBAs that have been stored with the pneumatic system pressurized. High pressure SCBA (4500 psig) are particularly susceptible to damage to the elastomeric materials in the first stage regulator. High storage temperatures cause cylinder pressures to rise to in excess of 5000 psig. Elastomeric materials in the first stage may become brittle, lose their shape, or cold flow over time, leading to a "no air flow" situation. SCBAs stored under these conditions will require more frequent maintenance than normal.

NOTE

A "no air flow" problem of this kind is evident as soon as the system is pressurized. This problem does not occur during use.