

## Breathing Air Cascade Trailer

The breathing air cascade trailer is owned and maintained by five departments. These departments are East Side, Fairview, Northwest, O'Fallon, and Signal Hill.

The breathing air cascade trailer has 9 high-pressure (4500 psi) cylinders. The capacity allows for the refill of approximately 80 - 2216 psi. breathing air cylinders. The unit also has a limited capability to refill 3000 psi and 4500 psi breathing air cylinders

The primary intended use for the breathing air cascade trailer is for the benefit and convenience of these departments. In addition to the breathing air cascade trailer, this group shares ownership and maintenance of an air compressor for the exclusive use of the refilling the trailer and other air storage vessels owned individually by the departments.

It has been agreed too and past practice has established that the breathing air cascade trailer and/or the air compressor will not be used for "routine" mutual aid requests. It was also the consensus of that the breathing air cascade trailer and/or the air compressor could be used by mutual aid departments operating at an incident scene with "extra-ordinary" circumstances.

The breathing air cascade is primarily housed at Signal Hill, however the unit could be located at one of the other Departments at any given time. To request the breathing air cascade trailer, please request St. Clair County Central Communications (CENCOM) contact Signal Hill. Signal Hill will either deliver the trailer or contact the other department who has custody of the trailer.

When requesting the breathing air cascade trailer, please designate an operations area that is free of smoke, vehicle exhaust fumes, run-off water, etc.

The United States Department of Transportation rules and regulations prohibit the refilling of pressurized vessels (i.e. self-contained breathing air cylinders) that have not been hydrostatically tested. Refilling cylinders that have not been hydrostatically tested pose a threat to both the firefighters utilizing the cylinders and those servicing the cylinders. *Breathing air cylinders presented for refills must be within their hydrostatic test dates.* Breathing air cylinders without their hydrostatic test date will not be refilled.

It is not the intent or purpose of this advisory protocol to discourage the use of the breathing air cascade trailer and/or the air compressor – when its need is essential to emergency operations. These operational guidelines and protocols however are required to protect the financial and other interests of those departments that own the breathing air cascade trailer.