STATE OF MICHIGAN
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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: November 25, 2019

TO: Fire Service Instructors and Course Managers

FROM: Kevin J. Sehlmeyer, State Fire Marshal/Director

SUBJECT: SCBA Training Clarification for Firefighter I/Hazmat Ops, Firefighter I & II/Hazmat Ops

Upon review of the practical skill sheets in each of the approved curriculums, the Bureau of Fire Services found a discrepancy between the publishers regarding fully opening self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cylinder valves. Specifically:

- IFSTA Essentials of Fire Fighting, 7th Edition, Skill Sheet 5-8, Step 10 states: *"Slowly and fully open the cylinder valve and listen for an audible alarm and leaks as the system pressurizes."*
- Jones and Bartlett Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, 4th Edition, Skill Drill 3-11, Step 9 states, *"Open the air cylinder valve. Check the air cylinder pressure gauge."*

Bureau staff contacted Jones and Bartlett directly to inquire about the discrepancy and asked why the language "fully opening the cylinder valve" was not included in Jones and Bartlett Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, 4th Edition, Skill Drill 3-11, Step 9. Jones and Bartlett has agreed to update the textbook and online resources to include that a SCBA cylinder valve should be slowly and fully opened during inspection and use.

Because the use of a SCBA includes the changing of cylinders during training and incident use, the bureau asks that instructors and course managers clarify with their students that a SCBA cylinder should be slowly and fully opened during use to include during SCBA inspections.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact your region coordinator.

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