



## Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Please ask for:** Service Information Team Leader  
**Tel:** 01604 797000  
**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:** N/A  
**Date:** 21 August 2020  
If you have any difficulty in obtaining the above telephone number please email [enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk).

### **Re: Request for information (our ref: NFRS2020-207-236)**

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 03 August 2020. Our response is provided below:

*Q1 Can you please provide the current manufacture and model of the Breathing Apparatus (BA) set/s used within your Fire and Rescue Service (FRS)?*

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) use the Draeger PSS7000 and PSS 400 Self-Contained BA sets.

*Q2 Does your FRS have Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA), EDBA is BA with a working duration of between 30 and 60 minutes (at 58 litres per minute air consumption rate).*

No, NFRS does not have an EDBA.

*Q3 What is the quoted cylinder capacity used within your FRS? Can you please give the water volume and full capacity when charged e.g. 6.8Litres (L) water volume, 1836L of air when charged to 300 bar. If you have both SDBA and EDBA, please provide both cylinder capacities.*

The quoted cylinder capacity used in NFRS is 9 litres water, 2,430 litres of air, 300 bar.

*Q4 Can you provide both the working duration and safety margin in minutes of the BA used within your FRS? If you have EDBA, please provide this too.*

The working duration is 36 minutes and the safety margin is 12 minutes once the whistle sounds.

*Q5 Could you please provide your FRS standard on the minimum cylinder pressure for entry into the risk area and minimum cylinder pressure for a re-entry?*

NFRS' minimum cylinder entry pressure is 170 bar and re-entry pressure is 170 bar.

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Q6 Can you please provide the pressure at which your Low Pressure Warning Whistle (LPWW) activates / sounds at?

The low pressure warning whistle sounds at 76 bar (+/- 5 bar).

If the BA used within your Service also has an electronic Low Pressure Warning Device (LPWD) can you provide this too.

The electronic low pressure warning device activates at 76 bar (+/- 5 bar).

Q7 Could you please provide a copy of the BA duration table as found on your Entry Control Boards (ECBs) used within your FRS?

Please find below the working duration table for NFRS:

<b>Northants Fire BA Working Duration Table</b> 300 bar / 2430 litres cylinders (based upon 50 l/pm breathing rate & 76 bar Low Pressure Warning Alarm)	
300 BAR	36 minutes
290 BAR	34 minutes
280 BAR	33 minutes
270 BAR	31 minutes
260 BAR	30 minutes
250 BAR	28 minutes
<b>240 BAR at BAECO (Minimum)</b>	<b>26 minutes</b>
<b>170 BAR RE- ENTRY</b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>120 bar</b>	<b>Minimum for Decontamination</b>
All gauge readings are to be rounded down to nearest 10 bar	

Q8 Can you please detail your Service's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Emergency Air Supply Equipment (EASE) arrangements?

Please refer to the SOP information provided below:

EASE (in use within Northamptonshire)

The EASE is a dedicated emergency air supply used by emergency BA teams from existing resources to provide an emergency air supply to assist FRS BA teams within the risk area.

The EASE will form part of the emergency arrangement procedures on all occasions when BA emergency teams are required.

### Description



A dedicated EASE bag is stowed on all operational appliances. The design of the bag allows a BA set to be placed within the bag with the female couplings and bodyguard unit protruding from one end. Carrying handles are also provided. A bodyguard key and protective caps are also provided.

### Preparing EASE

Upon nomination, the BA emergency team will be responsible for establishing EASE and making it ready for deployment.

To prepare EASE for use:

- Turn the cylinder on and check contents
- Remove facemask and place in the side pocket
- Connect the waist belt, take in slack and make a figure of eight knot behind the cylinder valve
- Pull the shoulder straps tight and tuck away excess strap
- Release the poppers to free the hose.
- Place the set in the EASE bag and ensure that the two female couplings and bodyguard unit are protruding from the bag via the hole provided at one end and ensure the BA set is secure within the bag and zip up
- Attach the protective cover onto the protruding hose lines
- Insert "name" EASE on the BA tally

### Deployment and initial responsibilities of the BA emergency team

Upon deployment, remove the tally from the EASE set bodyguard and insert it into the dedicated emergency team telemetry ECB. Ensure the "name" EASE has been written on the tally.

The BA emergency team will be responsible for carrying the EASE into the risk area. (Consideration will be made to increase the size of the BA emergency team).

When the casualty has been located and there is a need to use EASE, the following actions should apply:

- Reassure the casualty and insert the bodyguard key into the casualty's BA bodyguard to silence the alarm
- The BA emergency team leader will conduct a Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA)
- Position EASE within connecting distance of the casualty
- The casualty will take a deep breath and removes their Lung Demand Valve (LDV) hose

- Connect the LDV hose (male connection) to the female connection on the EASE
- The casualty will take a deep breath and activate the supplementary air button
- Inform Entry Control Operative (ECO) that the casualty is on "EASE"
- ECO will update "EASE" tally with "time in" and update ECB with relevant information
- Do not close down the BA set worn by the casualty
- Remove personnel from the risk area or await further assistance

Q9 *Do you have telemetry for the monitoring of BA wearers within your FRS?*

Yes, NFRS does have telemetry to monitor our BA wearers.

Q10 *Do you have long duration BA within your FRS? Long Duration BA has a working duration of over 60 minutes. If you answer yes, please could you provide the manufacture and model of long duration BA set used within your FRS. Could you also state the working and safety margin duration.*

No, we do not have long duration BA within NFRS.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting reference NFRS2020-207-236.

Yours sincerely

Service Information Team Leader

If you are unhappy with the response, you can ask the Service to review it. To do this, please email [enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk) or alternatively write to the address below:

Service Information Manager  
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Moulton Logistics Centre  
Moulton Way  
Northampton  
NN3 6XJ

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF