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Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is a critical component in the personal protective equipment (PPE). This equipment is essential for allowing fire fighters to operate in hostile fire ground environments. However, in recent decades there have been significant shifts with the environments encountered by structural fire fighters and how they operate in those environments.

- *Structure fires involving modern building construction and furnishings produce significantly higher heat release rates than legacy buildings and their furnishings of earlier years, exposing firefighters to more rapid heat development and intense thermal conditions.*
- *PPE used by firefighters has evolved to provide enhanced overall thermal protection, allowing firefighters to remain in adverse conditions for longer time periods.*

The SCBA face piece lens is an integral part of SCBA and today the lens material is generally based on polycarbonate. The SCBA face piece lens is often considered the weakest component of a firefighter's ensemble in high heat conditions, but the level of thermal performance of the face piece lens has not been well understood.

The enhanced PPE of today's firefighter has made them less able to detect changing thermal conditions. We can get in deeper which in turn, expose us for longer.

SCBA FACE PIECE

By
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A daily inspection of your SCBA face piece is an essential part of your day. According to the NFPA the weakest point of our PPE, is the face piece lens. Review what components of the facepiece to inspect and how to inspect them.

1. Cleanliness of seal and lens.
2. Obvious damage to frame such as wear and cracks.
3. Elasticity of straps.
4. Rubber seal and nose cup.
5. Scratches to the lens.
6. Regulator sealing surface area.
7. Fits user properly.
8. Snug and comfortable seal is achieved.

