PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Chief Brad Banz, Retired, Colwich, Kansas
OBJECTIVES

• Review all pieces of firefighter PPE ensemble
• Cover construction of each component of PPE and protection they afford
• Discuss inspection and serviceability of PPE
• Talk about breathing apparatus to include air usage and PASS devices.
• Consider Two in/Two out policies
• Briefly cover acceptable uses for PPE
AIR USAGE

- Air consumption is different in hard work vs. normal activity
- Learn to monitor pressure/breathing air level gauge
- The low air alarm means you should be out
PASS DEVICES

- Most are integrated into BA
- Inspect with morning checks
- Sound on inactivity or manual activation
- Important to drill on PASS activation and proper response
TWO IN-TWO OUT

- Standard for firefighter safety and accountability
- Implemented when firefighters must enter an “immediately dangerous to life and health” (IDLH) environment
- Minimum of 4 firefighters on the scene
- Exception if the possibility of a life hazard
ADAPTING TACTICS FOR PPE

- Make all decisions with safety as first priority
- Risk a little to save a little, risk a lot to save a lot
- 360 degree sizeup
- Just because you have everything doesn’t mean you should still go in
- Consider a transitional attack
- Position defensive lines to keep the fire from expanding
QUESTIONS