

TO: All Fire Service Personnel
FROM: John Miles State Fire Instructor New York
RE: Failure of the Scott AV-3000 Facepiece

This memo is to inform all fire service organizations, personnel, and Fire Chiefs of a problem I have come across while teaching as a New York State Fire Instructor. This problem involves the AV-3000 Scott Facepiece. On 3 occasions the snaps at the top of the facepiece which hold the netting to the facepiece have come apart after the firefighter had donned his facepiece, hood, helmet just prior to entering an IDLH atmosphere. Two of these failures were recognized by the firefighter himself prior to entering the IDLH atmosphere. The other firefighter was not aware that his snap had failed until an alert instructor noticed something was wrong with his facepiece and stopped the evolution. No injuries were sustained in these incidents.

After this third failure of the Scott AV-3000 facepiece I notified Scott of these failures. They asked that I send back to them the facepiece involved, which I did. Since that day I have talked about this in all the classes I teach and in any firehouse I visit. It is frightening to discover how many failures there have been with the AV-3000 and these top snaps. Scott has a Technical Bulletin dated January 8, 2008 (available on Scott Web Site) which discusses the failure of the BOTTOM straps due to the user pulling on the bottom straps with too much force. This can result in pulling the strap that is directly attached to the rubber seal ripping off the facepiece. **THIS IS NOT THE SAME PROBLEM I AM TALKING ABOUT.**

I am not sure how Scott Technologies will respond to this potentially fatal problem. It is my belief that with a half a million of these facepieces in circulation (Scott's number) it is only a matter a time before one of these AV-3000 fail inside a building and come loose from the unsuspecting firefighter.

In my years as a firefighter and as a fire instructor I am not sure I have ever seen a problem that has the potential of such catastrophic consequences. Until Scott Technologies recalls these facepieces I am recommending;

1. You notify your firefighters of this problem so they are aware that this may happen.
2. Survey your department to see if this has already happened. What I have heard so far is that firefighters are re-snapping the failed snap back on. The problem with this according to Scott is that these snaps must be installed back on by a qualified Scott service technician. They are supposed to go on only one way with the use of a tool.
3. If you find through your own investigation that you have AV-3000 that this is happen too you may want to consider taking them OOS.
4. Notify your Scott distributor with any problems.

All fire departments that use this facepiece must take this memo seriously. Just by looking at the snap you will see the potential problem. We need to inform our firefighter

with this information and hopefully we can get Scott Technology to act before we have a serious injury or worse.

If you have any question you would like to address to me please feel free to email me a jmiles@sunyrockland.edu.

Respectfully Submitted,
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