





# ChargeAir™ System Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

Draeger Safety Inc. Engineered Solutions



#### 1. Introduction & Description

- 2. History of Use
- 3. Recent Developments
- 4. Future Developments



### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Introduction:

 In-lieu of SCSR's, the proposed use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) in escape plans is an emerging alternative technology.









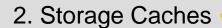
#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### **System Description:**

1. SCBA

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus







3. Refill Stations





#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### **System Description:**





#### **System Description:**

- What is the advantage?
- SCBA Technology offers:
  - Enhanced safety features
  - Improved user comfort
  - Ability to support firefighting efforts
  - Serviceability
  - Long-term cost-effectiveness





#### In this presentation:

- Historical & current developments in this field of SCBA Escape equipment.
- Improvements in technology and equipment.
- Areas to enhance SCBA refill stations in both performance and maintenance.
- Additionally, as related technologies and improved equipment develop, standards and "common practices" evolve for:
  - approval
  - system ratings
  - planning and use
  - maintenance and testing



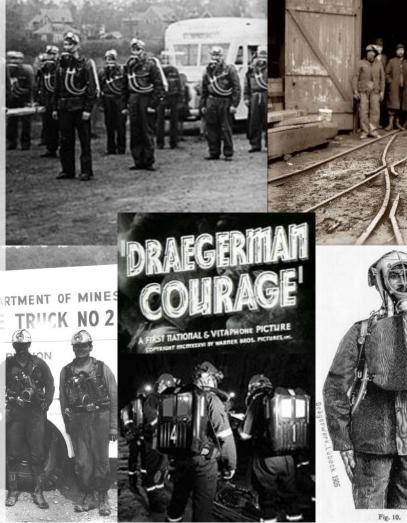
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# Dräger

Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

Dräger has a long and rich history in mining since the closed-

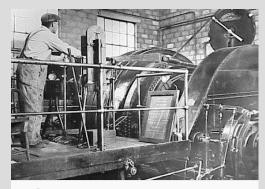
circuit apparatus in 1907.







Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment



"Stand and Fill" or "Wear and Fill" used by Hoist-men and Cage-tenders





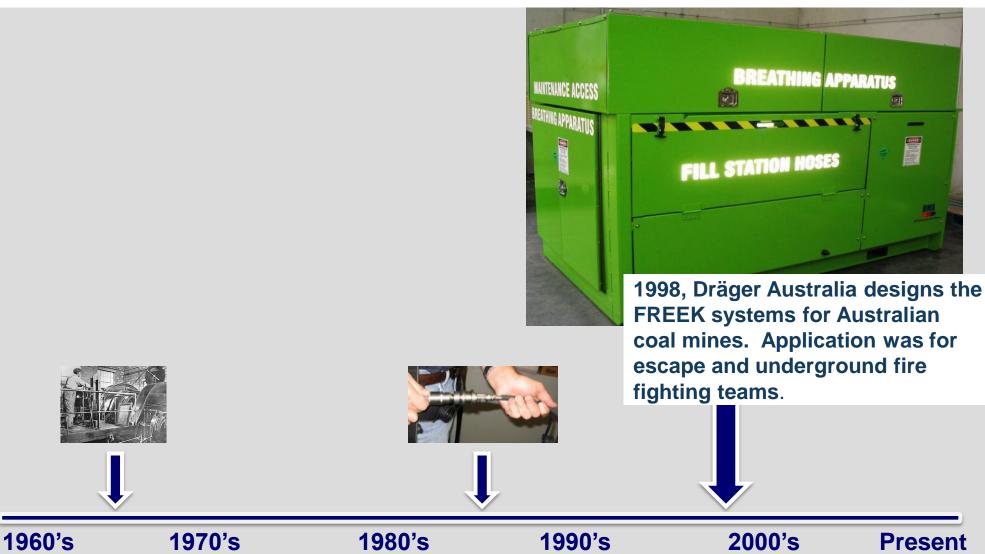
Aeroquip Fitting approved



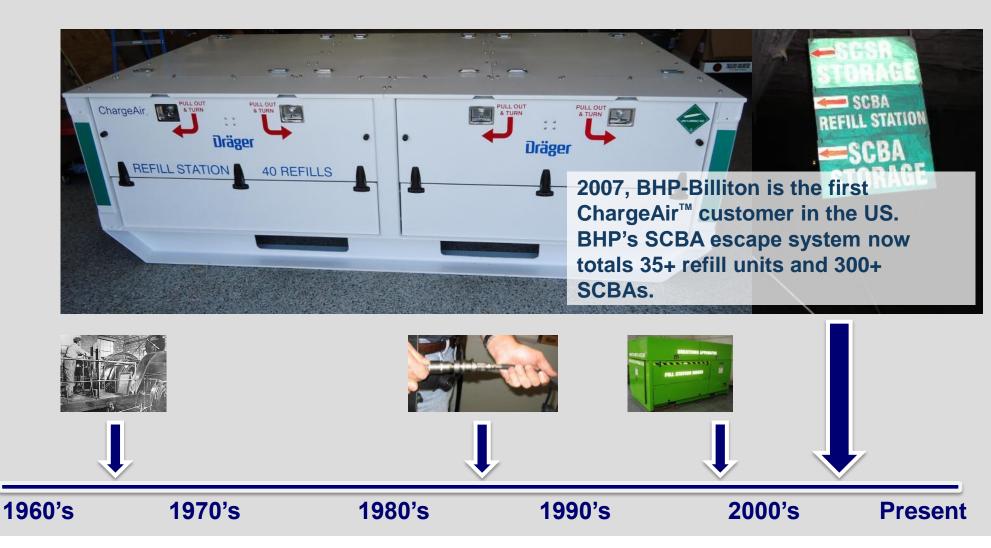
1960's 1970's 1980's 1990's 2000's Present



Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment









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#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Improvements in Refill Stations

New: smaller foot-print, high-efficiency model

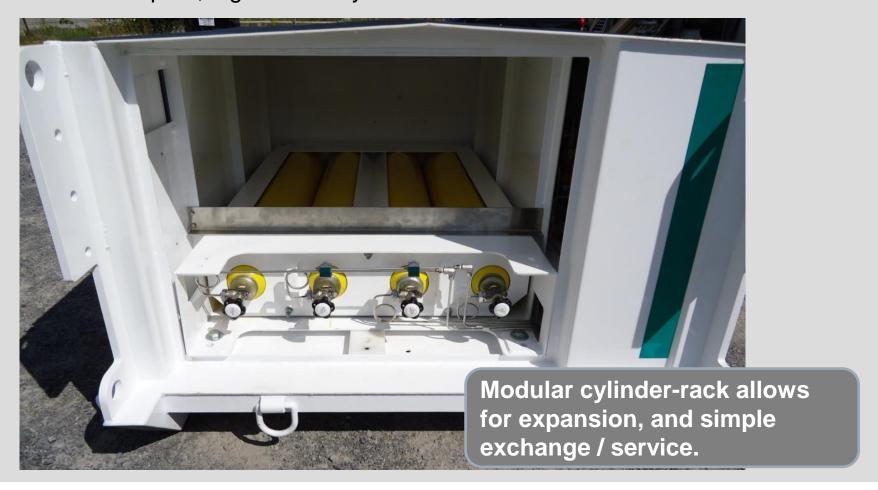




#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Improvements in Refill Stations

New: smaller foot-print, high-efficiency model





#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Improvements in Refill Stations

New: smaller foot-print, high-efficiency model





Removable panels allow for enhanced accessibility



#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Improvements in Refill Stations

New: smaller foot-print, high-efficiency model





#### Improvements in Compressed Gas Storage & Components

- Monel Valves
  - required for all compressed gas cylinders underground

- Welded Manifolds
  - reduces potential leak-points
  - reduces regular user-maintenance





Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment





#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### **Cache C10 Module**





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#### **Future Developments:**

- Connectivity & Remote activation of refill stations
- Firefighting Efforts
- **Enhanced Product Standardization**



Future Developments: RAPidAir (patent pending)

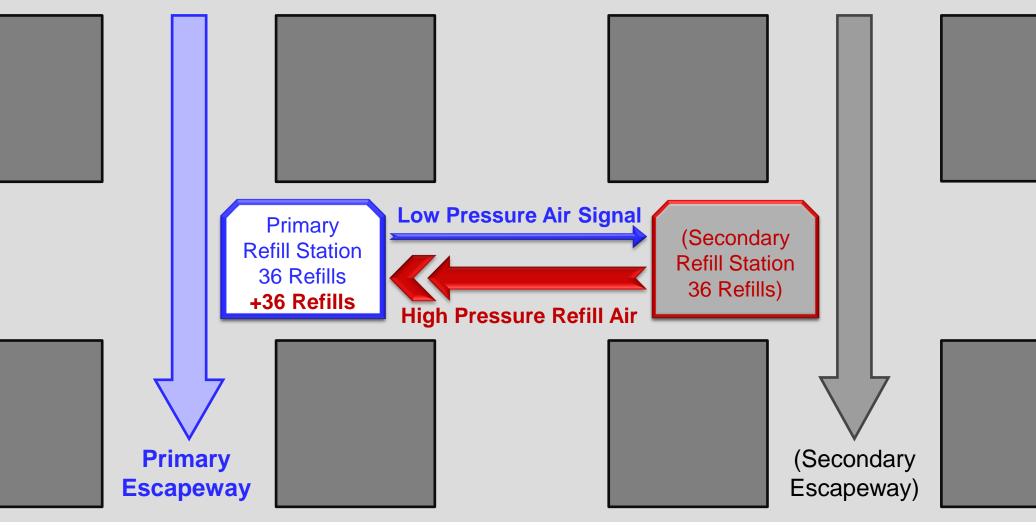
Remotely Activated Panel

- RAPidAir is a new technology which pneumatically connects refill stations in primary and secondary escapeways.
- It allows the primary and secondary refill stations to remotely activate each other, to share high-pressure breathing air.
- It increases safety by doubling available capacity and drastically enhancing fill speeds.



Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

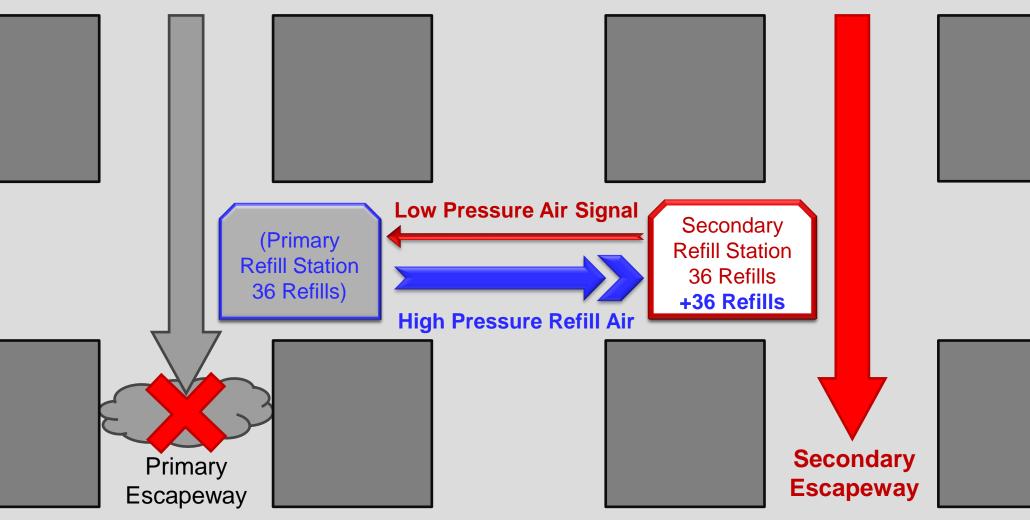
Scenario #1: Escape using the primary escapeway (secondary station air is avail.)





Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### Scenario #2: Primary Escapeway becomes impassable (system is bi-directional)





Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

**Future Developments: RAPidAir** 

The benefit of this connection and remote activation is two-fold:

- **Increased refill capacity:** Miners refilling at either station have access to the air stored in both stations. This "back-up" volume of air **doubles** the refill capacity at either station.
- Decreased Refill Time: Since the volume of air available has increased, the SCBA refill times are enhanced. Refill station performs **EACH** of it's 36 rated refills in less than **65 seconds** per SCBA.



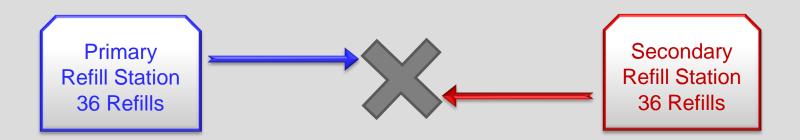


#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

**Future Developments: RAPidAir** 

#### The features of the RAPidAir system make it safe:

- Lines remain <u>unpressurized</u> until activated. In the event of damage to the lines (e.g. - roof-fall, fire, puncture, accidental disconnect, etc.) no pressurized breathing air is released.
- Signal air is controlled by individual refill station operators **only** activated by operators, and can be shut-off at any time.
- Check valves prevent back-flow of air refill stations cannot lose capacity when connected.





#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### **Future Developments: Firefighting Efforts**

- SCBA technology offers a clear advantage to fire brigades
- ChargeAir enhances that system by enabling firefighters to quickly and safely refill without removing respiratory protection.





#### Developments in SCBA-Based Escape Equipment

#### **Future Developments: Firefighting Efforts**

Storage equipment for essential equipment and tools.







#### **Future Developments: Enhanced Product Standardization**

 Evolving technology and evolving applications comes with an evolving need for standardization in codes, and areas of "common practice".









#### Future Developments: Enhanced Product Standardization

- Dräger is working towards product development in this area which enhances ChargeAir and SCBA as life-saving devices.
  - ANSI standards for signage on emergency and life-saving equipment.
  - Working with approval agencies, assisting in testing, usability studies.
  - Developing industry standards for system capacities and ratings, inspection schedules, and maintenance requirements.











The larger goal is to find guidelines and standards surrounding the technology that make it safer.



Thank you for your attention.