

Safety Toolbox Talks

Protect Yourself Respirators

Respiratory protection must be worn whenever you are working in a hazardous atmosphere. The appropriate respirator will depend on the contaminant(s) to which you are exposed and the protection factor (PF) required. Required respirators must be NIOSH-approved and medical evaluation and training must be provided before use.

Single-strap dust masks are usually not NIOSH-approved. They must not be used to protect from hazardous atmospheres. However, they may be useful in providing comfort from pollen or other allergens.



Approved filtering facepieces (dust masks) can be used for dust, mists, welding fumes, etc. They do not provide protection from gases or vapors. DO NOT USE FOR ASBESTOS OR LEAD; instead, select from the respirators below.



Half-face respirators can be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.



Full-face respirators are more protective than half-face respirators. They can also be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. The face-shield protects face and eyes from irritants and contaminants. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.



Loose-fitting powered-air-purifying respirators (PAPR) offer breathing comfort from a battery-powered fan which pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout helmet/hood. They can be worn by most workers who have beards. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.



A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient. They use their own air tank.



Do not wear a respirator unless:

- You have received a medical evaluation or pulmonary function test within the last year.
- You have satisfactorily passed a respirator fit test to confirm proper fit and facial sealing of the assigned respirator.
- You have received appropriate training regarding respirator selection and usage, donning procedures including performing a positive and negative pressure test for fit, filter replacement schedule and respirator maintenance, care and cleaning.
- You are clean shaven.

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MAINTENANCE, CARE AND CLEANING

- The respirator must be inspected for defects and proper functioning prior to each use.
- Respirators must be repaired by trained, qualified persons only.
- The respirator must be cleaned, disinfected and dried after each use and stored in a sealed plastic bag or container to prevent contamination
- Change cartridge filters according to the schedule established by your supervisor. Dispose of used filters at the end of the job (do not reuse filters).

VOLUNTARY USE OF FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATORS (DUST MASKS)



The wearing of Filtering facepiece respirators (pictured) may be permitted when performing tasks that have been determined not to present a recognized health risk. When the use of filtering facepiece respirators is voluntary, the employee does not need to go to a health care facility for a medical evaluation or be required to pass a fit test. This is the only type of respirator that does not require these types of tests. If an employee uses the same filtering facepiece but is "required" to wear it for a particular job task then a full medical evaluation complete with fit test and training would be required. Also, the voluntary use of a tight-fitting or elastomeric respirator would require the full medical evaluation as well.

If you plan to wear a filtering facepiece respirator or dust mask please fill out the form enclosed; entitled: (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When not required Under the Standard and return to the office.

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This form is for all sites:

(Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When not required Under the Standard

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazard when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged even when exposures are below the exposure limit to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the workers. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by the OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the information presented on this form.

EMPLOYEE'S NAME

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

Print

Sign and Date



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BRIESER CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MEETING

Week of: _____

Job Number: _____

Date: _____

Job Name: _____

Superintendent: _____

Site Specific Topics:

Crew Safety

Recommendations: _____

Reviewed MSDS #: _____ Subject: _____

Meeting Attended By: (Print your Name)

Supervisor/Foreman: _____
