

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Construction jobs can expose workers to unsafe airborne contaminants (e.g., dust, fumes) that can harm health and lead to serious diseases. To prevent exposure to airborne contaminants, employers should prioritize eliminating the hazard, replacing the hazard, or implementing engineering controls (e.g., local exhaust ventilation) or administrative controls (e.g., rotating workers between hazardous tasks). However, when these controls are not feasible or are insufficient to reduce harmful exposures, workers should wear appropriate respiratory protection. To be effective, respirators must be properly selected, and the user fit tested. Workers must be trained and follow employer and manufacturer's instructions for the proper use, inspection, maintenance, and storage of respirators. This includes proper donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) procedures.

Different types of respirators, such as filtering facepiece respirators half-mask respirators, and full-facepiece respirators, and hood or helmet powered air-purifying respirators, can be used to protect us from airborne contaminants. The Company will provide respirators that are approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for use under the direction of a written respiratory protection program. The Company's written respiratory protection program is located at the safety support center that is located at www.iws.support.

Prior to donning a respirator, workers must first undergo a medical evaluation, fit testing, and training. Fit testing is required to make sure tight-fitting respirators provide the expected protection.

And make sure you perform the manufacturer-recommended maintenance on your respirator. Replace filters/cartridges when they are damaged, soiled, or you notice an increased breathing resistance.

- If engineering and administrative controls are not in place or are insufficient and workers are exposed to hazards at levels above OSHA's PELs, respiratory protection is required. Engineering controls should ALWAYS be the first line of defense!
- The Company has implemented an OSHA-compliant respiratory protection program, which includes medical evaluations, fit testing, and training. Do not don a respirator without these three things!
- If respiratory protection is required at the worksite, respirators must be properly selected, and the user fit tested. Respirators should be stored and made available when needed. Users must put them on and take them off according to the manufacturer's instructions.



The equipment you wear must be a NIOSH-approved respirator suitable for the job. If you have a question about whether a respirator is needed for a specific task or which type to use, talk to your supervisor or the safety manager. The respirator's approval label indicates that the respirator is approved and will help you identify the protection level (e.g., N95). Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions for each specific respirator model.

Guard your breathing
with utmost care,
so you can enjoy life
without a scare.

