



## **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION**

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## **Purpose**

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The purpose of this program is to define the requirements for Validus Energy employees who are required to wear respiratory protection as specified in 29 CFR 1910.134.

## **Scope**

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This policy applies to all Validus Energy employees and worksites.

## **Process**

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Validus Energy will conduct hazard assessments to determine if hazards exist that require the use of respirators.

Validus Energy will provide medical clearance and fit testing if required.

Training on the use and care of respiratory protection equipment will be provided.

Contractors performing activity on Validus energy worksites requiring respiratory protection must conduct appropriate hazard assessments and comply with the requirements outlined in 29 CFR 1910.134.

Each contract company that supplies workers to a Validus worksite requiring Respiratory Protection must have a program administrator designated.

## **Responsibilities**

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Leadership	Commit to, follow, and reinforce the requirements set forth in this program. Provide sufficient resources for implementation.
Supervisors	Ensure Validus employees have the knowledge and skills to follow this program. Verify that all employees have completed training as required.
EHS	Provide technical advice and resources to monitor compliance. Facilitate employee training and fit testing. EHS serves as the plan administrator.
Validus Employees	Follow the requirements of this program. Wear all respiratory protection as specified by the manufacturer. Contact EHS if you have trouble breathing or performing work while wearing respiratory protection.



## Definitions

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**Escape-Only Respirator** - a respirator intended to be used only for emergency exit.

**Filtering Facepiece or Dust Mask** - a negative pressure particulate respirator with a filter as an integral part of the facepiece or with the entire facepiece composed of the filtering medium.

**Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)** - an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**Physician or other Licensed Health Care Professional (PLHCP)** - an individual whose legally permitted scope of practice (i.e., license, registration, or certification) allows him or her to independently provide, or be delegated the responsibility to provide, some or all the health care services required by the Respiratory Protection standard.

**Positive Pressure Respirator** - a respirator in which the pressure inside the respiratory inlet covering exceeds the ambient air pressure outside the respirator.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - an Atmosphere-Supplying Respirator for which the breathing air source is designed to be carried by the user.

**Tight-Fitting Facepiece** - a respiratory inlet covering that forms a complete seal with the face.

## Policies

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Employees have the potential to be exposed to Hydrogen Sulfide while conducting business on a Validus worksite. Employees are provided early detection devices and shall evacuate the area before being exposed to H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations that approach **IDLH** Levels.

Validus Energy employees must wear respiratory protection to clear a location following a personal or stationary Hydrogen Sulfide alarm.

In areas where there is the potential to be exposed to H<sub>2</sub>S in an IDLH concentration, Validus Employees shall be provided with emergency **escape only respirators**.

### Fit Testing

Validus Energy employees wearing respirators must be fit tested before initial use and annually thereafter.

The employee must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used.



## **Medical Evaluations**

All Validus Energy employees wearing respiratory protection must have completed a medical evaluation prior to wearing a respirator. The medical evaluation will be confidential, during normal working hours, convenient, understandable, and the employee will be allowed to discuss the results with the **PLHCP**.

The following information must be provided to the PLHCP before the PLHCP makes a recommendation concerning an employee's ability to use a respirator:

- The type and weight of the respirator to be used by the employee.
- The duration and frequency of respirator use (including use for rescue and escape).
- The expected physical work effort.
- Additional protective clothing and equipment to be worn, and
- Temperature and humidity extremes that may be encountered.

## **Respirator Selection Criteria**

**SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)** have been selected as the respiratory protection equipment to be used due to the IDLH properties of Hydrogen sulfide.

Employee participation in the program is voluntary and if no employees volunteer, a qualified third-party company will clear locations following an alarm as specified in the H2S policy.

For those employees who have volunteered to wear a SCBA, Validus Energy has selected the Scott Industrial 30-minute SCBA. Each employee will be provided with his/her own mask.

In areas where an escape only respirator is necessary, a five-minute emergency escape pack has been mounted.

## **Use, Maintenance and Care of Respirators**

The use, cleaning and disinfecting, storage, inspection, and repair of respirators used by Validus Energy employees is required.

All Validus Energy SCBAs will be used only in **Positive Pressure** mode.

## **Facial Seal**

The effective seal of respiratory protective equipment is vital. Anything that can affect the seal is prohibited including facial hair, glasses, etc.

SCBAs used at Validus Energy shall not be worn by employees who have facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face.



### **Storage**

Masks and other SCBA components shall be stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals.

The mask shall be stored to prevent deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.

Respiratory equipment intended for emergency use shall be stored in an area that is readily accessible and clearly marked.

### **Cleaning**

SCBA masks are issued to each user and must be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to be maintained in a sanitary condition.

The following steps will be used when cleaning a facepiece.

- Wash components in warm water with a mild detergent or with a cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. A stiff bristle (not wire) brush may be used to facilitate the removal of dirt.
- Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm, preferably running water. Drain.
- When the cleaner used does not contain a disinfecting agent, respirator components should be immersed for two minutes in commercially available cleansers of equivalent disinfectant quality. Another alternative is to use wipes containing alcohol that are intended for use with respirators.
- Rinse components thoroughly in clean, warm, preferably running water. Drain. The importance of thorough rinsing cannot be overemphasized. Detergents or disinfectants that dry on face pieces may result in dermatitis. In addition, some disinfectants may cause deterioration of rubber or corrosion of metal parts if not completely removed.
- Components should be hand-dried with a clean lint-free cloth or air dried. Reassemble face piece, replacing filters, Cartridges, and Canisters where necessary. Test the respirator to ensure that all components work properly.

### **Inspection**

Respirators are inspected before use. All respirators used in routine situations shall be inspected before each use and during cleaning.

All respirators maintained for use in emergency situations will be inspected monthly to ensure they are functional in the event of an emergency.

### **Repairs**

Validus Energy employees may not attempt to repair any respirator. If an inspection reveals a defect or mechanical issue, the respirator shall be removed from service immediately.



### **Breathing Air Quality and Use**

All SCBA bottles used by Validus energy employees will be filled with Type 1 Grade D breathing air.

Characteristics of Type 1 Grade D air are:

- Oxygen content (v/v) of 19.5-23.5%
- Hydrocarbon (condensed) content of 5 milligrams per cubic meter of air or less
- Carbon monoxide (CO) content of 10 ppm or less
- Carbon dioxide content of 1,000 ppm or less
- Lack of noticeable odor

Validus Energy will procure bottles from a third party and will verify that cylinders used to supply breathing air to respirators meet DOT requirements and that:

Cylinders are tested and maintained as required by 49 CFR part 173 and part 178.

Cylinders have a certificate of analysis from the supplier that the breathing air meets the requirements for Type 1--Grade D breathing air

- The moisture content in the cylinder does not exceed a dew point of -50 deg. F (-45.6 deg. C) at 1 atmosphere pressure.

### **Voluntary Use**

If an employee chooses to voluntarily wear a respirator when not required by this program (contaminants do not meet protection standards, odors, etc.) they will receive awareness level training and are required to sign the voluntary use form found on the forms page of Validus.Energy.

### **Workplace Monitoring**

Monitoring will take place according to the Validus Energy Industrial Hygiene program. If additional exposures are determined, additional respiratory protection provisions will be made.

### **Recordkeeping**

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Information regarding medical evaluations, fit testing and the respirator program will be maintained by the EHS Department.

Records of medical evaluations required by this section must be retained and made available in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1020.



## **Training**

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All Validus Employees who do not volunteer to wear an SCBA will be trained in respiratory hazards and the voluntary use provision.

Employees that are participating in the respiratory protection program by volunteering to wear a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus will be trained on the fit, use, limitations, fit checks, maintenance and storage, medical signs and symptoms of effective use and general requirements of the OSHA standard. This training will be provided prior to the fit testing and use of an SCBA and annually thereafter.

## **Review**

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Validus Energy EHS will review this program annually and assess the wearers or respirators to ensure that the requirements are being met.



## Change Log

<b>Date</b>	<b>Change (s) Made</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
7/18/24	Original Document	Justin Stone