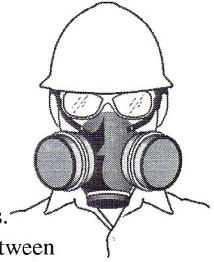


Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic 279: Respiratory Protection (Part C)

**Introduction:** Knowing the proper use, care, and storage of your respirator is one of the most important skills you have acquired through your PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) training. The nature of the hazardous atmosphere (many of the dangers are invisible) dictates the need for thoughtful and careful attention to the following safe practices.

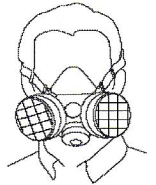


- **Safe practices include:** ① Prohibiting conditions that may result in face-piece seal leakage; ② Preventing workers from removing the respirator in hazardous environments; ③ Take actions to ensure continued effective respirator performance throughout the work-shift; and, ④ Establish procedures for the use of respirators in IDLH atmospheres.
- **Respirators with tight-fitting face-pieces MUST NOT be worn by employees who have:** ① Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face-piece and the face; or, ② Any condition that hinders or impedes the face-to-face seal or valve function.
- **Employees must ensure:** prior to entering the hazardous atmosphere that the respirator fits snugly and the employee should perform a positive/negative pressure seal test by covering the intake/outtake valves and breathing in and blowing out.
- **Employers must ensure:** that workers perform a positive/negative pressure seal check each time they put on the respirator, as per training procedure. Appropriate monitoring of workplace conditions must be maintained to determine the degree of the workers exposure or stress.
- **Employees must leave the respirator-required work-zone:** ① To wash their face and respirator as needed to prevent eye or skin irritation; ② If workers detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in the filter's breathing resistance; or, ③ To replace the respirator or the filter, cartridge, or canister elements.



**Thorough training in Respirator Maintenance and Care is vitally important.** Be sure that sufficient equipment and supplies are kept on hand to provide for the cleaning and disinfecting, storage, inspection, and repair of respirators used by employees.

- **Employers must:** ① Provide each user with a respirator that is clean, sanitary, and in good working order; ② Ensure that respirators are properly stored to protect them from damage, contamination, sunlight, temperature extremes, and chemicals; ③ Confirm that respirators are inspected before each use and during cleaning; ④ All emergency units are inspected at least monthly; and, ⑤ Emergency escape only units must be inspected before being carried into the work-place for use.
- **Make sure that respirator inspections include:** ① Check the respirator function, tightness of fittings, and the condition of the various parts; ② A check of the elastomeric parts for pliability and signs of deterioration; ③ Ensure that respirators that fail inspection, or are found defective, are removed from service, and are adjusted, repaired, or discarded.



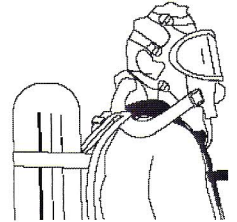
**Identification of Filters, Cartridges, and Canisters:** Employers must ensure that any of these units used in the work-place are labeled and color-coded with the NIOSH approval label and that the label remains legible and is not removed.

**Training and Information:** Effective training must be provided to employees who use respirators. This training must be comprehensive, understandable, and done annually (sooner if necessary).

- **After training, employees must demonstrate:** ① Knowledge of the need for respirators; ② Results of improper fit; ③ Capacities and limitations; ④ Procedures for inspection, maintenance, storage, and emergencies; ⑤ The ability to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of respirators; and, ⑥ Knowledge of the general requirements of the respirator standard.

**Respirator Program Evaluation:** Employers must conduct evaluations of their work-places to ensure: ① The written "Program" is being properly fulfilled; and, ② Workers are using respirators properly.

- **Employers must regularly consult workers to:** assess their views on program effectiveness and identify any problems.
- **Factors to be evaluated include:** proper fitting, effective selection for the given hazard, proper respirator use for the conditions workers encounter, and proper respirator care and maintenance.



**Recordkeeping:** Employers must establish and retain written records regarding medical evaluations (confidential), fit testing, and the Respiratory Protection Program.

**Conclusion:** Breathing protection is a primary component of everyone's personal protective equipment and is crucial to the health and protection of anyone exposed to hazardous atmospheres. Take care of your respirator and it will take care of you!

### Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:**

*(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)*


*These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*