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**Tool Box Safety Talk # 26 06-23-2024.**

**Topic: Respiratory Protection**

A respirator is a device worn over the mouth, nose, or the entire face to prevent inhalation of dusts, smoke, hazardous or noxious substances. OSHA General Industry regulations for respiratory protection can be found in 29 CFR 1910.134.

Before wearing a respirator, many things must be considered.

1. Respiratory Hazard Assessment – An assessment of the processes, equipment, materials, endproducts, and by-products, must be performed to identify potential exposure hazards.
2. Hazard Controls – Once a respiratory hazard assessment has been completed, the next step is to determine how to control the hazards.
	1. Engineering Controls – Controls that elimination the exposure all-together, like a fume hood or ventilation.
	2. Work Practice Controls – Controls that can be put into place for work processes, for instance, following standard operating procedures (SOPs).
	3. Administrative Controls – Controls that are administered by management. (ex. minimizing worker exposure times by scheduling rotations)
	4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – PPE is the last line of defense against hazards. In this case respirators would be worn to prevent inhalation of harmful substances.
3. Respiratory Protection Program – Make sure you are familiar with your employers Respiratory Protection Program and follow those guidelines.
4. Medical Evaluation – Before the use of a respirator, employees shall visit a physician or a licensed health care professional capable of performing a medical evaluation using a medical questionnaire, to determine whether or not it is safe for them to wear a respirator.
5. Training – Once it is determined that respirators will be utilized and the appropriate respirator is selected, employees must be properly trained on respiratory protection. This training should contain more in depth information on all the elements contained in this toolbox talk.
6. Fit Testing – The last process to be completed before being able to wear a respirator is the fit test. A “fit test” tests the seal between the respirator facepiece and your face. In order to be properly fit tested, participants must be clean shaven so facial hair does not disrupt the respirator facepiece seal to the face. An employee can only use the exact make, model and size of respirator(s) for which he or she has passed the fit test. Fit testing must be completed on an annual basis. Tool Box Talk
7. Respirator User Requirements
* Use the proper respirator, cartridges or canisters for the intended contaminates
* Do not wear a respirator with any facial hair that could disrupt the respirator seal with the face
* Follow the proper schedule for cartridge/canister replacement
* Inspect your respirator before each use
* Clean your respirator after each use
* Store your respirator in a sealed container
* Use only NIOSH approved respirators
* Read all manufacture instructions before use
* Perform a user seal check after donning
* Follow proper sanitation procedures if respirators are shared

Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Specific Topics: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**TRAINING ROSTER**

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## SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**# 26 Respiratory Protection 06-23-2024.**

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS COVERED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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