

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: **Respiratory Protection**

OVERVIEW: Respirators may be required in the workplace to protect employees from chemicals, pesticides, dusts, oxygen deficient atmospheres and other potentially harmful atmospheres. It is essential to protect yourself from these hazards that may cause immediate or long term harm, including death. To ensure protection, implementation of an effective respiratory program is critical.

TALKING POINTS:

Program

- A written program should be available for employees of how your respirator program works and the requirements
- Training for employees is required
- Medical evaluations are required to ensure employees can wear respirators and should be repeated annually (heart and lungs)
- Respirator fit testing is required to ensure the respirator fits properly and will provide adequate protection

Selection and Use

- Wear only the respirator selected for you and the specific task you are performing.

Cleaning, Maintenance and Storage

- Proper care and maintenance of respirators is essential to employee protection, ensure you are taking the proper steps to protect yourself
- Daily cleaning of respirators is required to maintain respirators
- Inspect for condition and damage before and after each use
- Damage or defective respirators must be taken out of service immediately

- Discard cartridges, filters and filtering face pieces according to your respiratory program
- Store in a clean and dry location

Special Conditions

- Facial hair is not allowed because it may interfere with the seal of the respirator and jeopardize your safety
- For full face piece respirators special corrective lenses can be mounted inside the respirator to ensure a proper seal, regular glasses are not permitted with full face piece respirators
- Certain facial features can also prevent a proper seal such as severe acne, missing teeth, scars, etc.
- Talking may break the seal of a respirator, when communication is necessary it should be done with the help of special communicating equipment

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Where is your written program and what does it state?
2. How often is cleaning of respirators required? (Answer: Daily)
3. Can facial hair or glasses affect the seal of a respirator? (Answer: Yes)

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