

Respiratory Protection

Handout

Your Respirator Protects You from Air Hazards

WHEN air contaminants exceed permissible exposure limits, use an air-purifying or -filtering respirator coded to protect against your specific job hazards.

WHEN there's not enough oxygen, or a situation is "immediately dangerous to life or health," use an air-supplying respirator.

Hint: Ask your supervisor to check job procedures and chemical safety data sheets for respirator selection instructions.

WHEN you wear a respirator, fit it to seal contaminants out.

Hint: It should be secure (but not too tight) around the chin, not slip or pinch your nose. However, it must allow you to move your head and talk. Report any problems getting a good fit or wearing a respirator.

WHEN you put on or remove a respirator, inspect it carefully.

Hint: Check for tight connections; charged air and oxygen canisters; no cracks, cartridge dents, or other damage; and no worn or deteriorated rubber or plastic parts.

WHEN you remove a respirator, clean and store it properly.

Hint: Follow decontamination, cleaning, and disinfecting procedures; store away from dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals, with rubber and plastic parts in normal position.

