

TOOLBOX TALK

DISCUSS WITH CREWS

mm/dd/yyyy

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Topic Overview

One of the ways that workers can protect themselves from dangerous environments that can cause severe damage to their respiratory system and other parts of their body is to wear a respirator.

Hazards to be aware of

To avoid exposure, you must know what type of respirator is required for the environment that you will be exposed to. There are two main types of respirators:



AIR-SUPPLYING

- Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
- Positive pressure air line respirator from compressor or cylinder

Air-supplying respirators can be used in oxygen-deficient, or toxic atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health.



AIR-PURIFYING

- Half mask Respirator
- Full mask Respirator
- Dust mask
- Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR)

Air-purifying respirators **may not be used** in atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH), such as an atmosphere that is extremely toxic

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Safety Tips

Filters and Cartridges

Once you have been fit-tested for your respirator, it is important to ensure that you use a filter, or the proper cartridge. Filters are used for filtering out dusts, mists, fumes, and fibres. Cartridges are used for filtering out gases and vapours.

Filter



Cartridge



To determine which cartridge or filter is used, check the "PPE Section" of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of the product that you are exposed to or speak to your supervisor. Once you know what type of cartridge you need to use, check to see if your cartridge is the right one for the job. You can do this by checking the symbols located on the side of the cartridge. If there are questions as to what cartridge should be used, contact the manufacturer of the product.

Before Use

- Ensure your annual fit-test has been completed.
- If working with silica, review and implement an exposure control plan (ECP) (see resources).
- Ensure that you thoroughly inspect your respirator and filters/cartridges.
- To create a good seal between the respirator and your skin, you must be clean-shaven.
- Every time you put your respirator on, even if you take it off for a moment to talk, you must perform a positive and negative pressure test.

After Use

- Clean the inside of the respirator to remove any moisture.
- Separate the respirator from the filters/cartridge and store in separate bags or constrainers to prevent cross contamination.
- Store the respirator in a clean, dry, cool location

Resources

Exposure Control Plan (ECP): Whenever you work with Silica, an ECP must be created, reviewed, and followed by all affected workers. The [BCCSA's Silica Control Tool™](#) assists employers in conducting appropriate risk assessments and implementing effective controls and safe work practices where RCS dust may be an occupational hazard.

TOOLBOX TALK

LOCATION		DATE	
PRESENTED BY		TIME	

Review previous Workplace Inspections

Review previous Accident/Incident/Near Misses

Other Safety Issues or Suggestions made by Staff

Attendance Record

NAME	SIGNATURE	NAME	SIGNATURE

TOOLBOX MEETING REVIEWED	NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	DATE
MANAGEMENT REP			
WORKER REP			