

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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Week of 11/21/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

RESPIRATORS AND BREATHING PROTECTION

All of us take breathing for granted, but if the air we are breathing is not clean, it can be very harmful to our health, or even deadly. This is why respirators are needed for some jobs. What follows is a brief overview of respirators and their importance. It is not possible in a short meeting to cover all the details of choosing and using the proper respirator for all the different situations that occur. Additional information is available from respirator manufacturers and OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.134.

A respirator is a safety device that covers at least the nose and mouth and protects the wearer against hazardous atmospheres. There are two general types of respirators, those that use filters to remove contaminants from the air before you inhale them, and those that supply you with clean air from another location. Respirators protect you from hazards like particulates and dusts (e.g., silica); vapors and gases (e.g., carbon monoxide); atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life or health (e.g., oxygen deficiency); physical agents (e.g., radioactive particles); or biological agents (e.g., mold spores).

Using a respirator can affect how easily air flows into and out of your lungs. Since this can cause breathing problems, a physician or other licensed healthcare professional must perform a medical evaluation. Once you have medical authorization, your employer will conduct a respirator fit test. Now comes the training. Your employer will provide you with respirator training that is specific to both the site and the respirator. Pay attention, participate, and ask questions if you don't understand the instructions or information. **You** need to know how to use your respirator; using or maintaining it incorrectly could cause serious injury or death — **your death!**

If respiratory hazards exist on the job, the employer is required to have and maintain a written, site-specific respiratory protection program. The program will include information about hazard evaluation, respirator selection, medical evaluation, fitting, and training.

You need to be able to breathe clean air and you may need to wear a respirator for that clean air to be available. But remember that you cannot just grab any dust mask or respirator and go to work. Make sure that you have the right kind of respiratory protection for all of the hazards present, and that you truly understand how to use it properly.

Not everyone can wear and use a respirator.

**If you cannot, or are not trained to do so,
there may be places you cannot work.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____