

## Respiratory Protection

# Toolbox Talks

Discuss with crews on \_\_\_\_\_

In the past, many workers have been exposed to dangerous environments that have caused severe damage to their respiratory system and other body parts. Today, much effort is undertaken to provide a safe work environment for all employees. One of the ways that a worker can protect themselves is to wear a respirator. However, 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 has no oxygen or is extremely toxic.

### Filters and Cartridges

Once you have selected your respirator, it is important to ensure that you use a filter or the proper cartridge. Filters are used for filtering out dust, mists, fumes, and fibers. Cartridges are used for filtering out gases and vapors.

To determine what cartridge or filter is used, check the "PPE Section" of the MSDS of the product that you are exposed to. Once you know what type of cartridge you need to use, check to see whether the cartridge that you have 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 ever any questions as to what cartridge should be used, contact the manufacturer of the product.

Also be sure that you thoroughly inspect your respirator and filters/cartridges before usage, and store the respirator in a clean, dry, cool location. If you ever sense that your respirator is malfunctioning, leave the contaminated work area, alert your supervisor, and correct the problem (replace cartridges, readjust respirator, replace respirator). Air purifying respirators with HEPA filters must be worn when saw-cutting concrete or ASPHALT, along with water suppression.

### **Safety Alert**

A worker was observed on a job site drilling holes into a concrete pipe and not wearing respirator. This is a reminder to all personnel that when performing this particular task, a respirator is required to be worn.