

SAFETY TALK

Use and Maintenance

NOTICE

CLEAN AND STORE RESPIRATOR AFTER USE

Each worker who is required to wear a respirator has certain responsibilities. All workers who are issued a respirator should be fitted and medically evaluated to ensure they can safely wear a particular respirator. Respiratory equipment should always be used as instructed.

Workers must perform a seal check test each time the respirator is donned (put on). There are two basic methods for performing a user seal check: positive pressure and negative pressure. Workers should be trained to perform the seal check test following the instructions specific to the respirator.

Care should also be taken to guard against damaging respiratory equipment. Report any malfunctioning equipment to your supervisor. This would include such things as discomfort, resistance in breathing, fatigue due to respirator usage, interference with vision or communications and restriction of movement. Go immediately to an area of "clean air" if your respirator malfunctions.

Respirators must be properly cleaned, inspected, stored, and in good repair if they are expected to work properly. At the end of each work-shift your respirator should be cleaned and disinfected. If the respirator is shared with other users, it should be cleaned and disinfected between users. Be sure to follow the manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the device. Inspect and test the respirator before use to ensure the components work properly.

Respirators are to be stored in a convenient and clean location. The regulations require that respirators be protected from dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture and damaging or contaminating chemicals. Never place objects on your respirator or place it in positions that would cause the sealing surfaces to distort or bend out of shape. Always handle your respirator with care. Follow the manufacturers instructions for storing your respirator. Ask your supervisor if you are not sure how your respirator should be stored.

Inspect your regulator before and after each use. These inspections will help prevent you from using a damaged respirator. A damaged respirator may not properly protect you from the harmful chemicals. Follow the manufacturers instructions for inspecting your regulator. Ask your supervisor if you are not sure how to inspect your regulator. Never attempt to use a damaged respirator and report damaged respirators to your supervisor

Sooner or later your respirator will need to be repaired. Regulations require that people who repair respirators be well trained. Replacements parts must come from the manufacturer of the respirator. The NIOSH approval of the respirator is not valid if parts from a different manufacturer are used. The respirator may appear to work just as well with the substitute parts, but they should NEVER BE USED.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What should you do if your respirator malfunctions?