

## **TOOL BOX TALK - RESPIRATOR MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**

For required use, only respirators designated as re-usable by the manufacturer shall be cleaned and stored after use. Disposable respirators shall be disposed of at the end of each shift, or after each use as deemed appropriate during the hazard assessment.

Reusable rubber facepiece respirators shall be inspected after each use and cleaned as needed. Shared respirators shall be inspected, cleaned and sanitized after each use following manufacturer's instructions or RPP guidelines. Shared respirators should also be sanitized prior to each use.

Anyone cleaning or sanitizing a respirator must follow manufacturer's guidelines and ensure that any cleaners and sanitizers are not expired, and do not degrade respirator parts and materials.

Replacement parts shall be those specified by the manufacturer. Where required by the manufacturer, only certified individuals are to perform maintenance and repairs.

Cleaned respirators shall be stored in a clean, dry, and sanitary environment away direct sunlight or heat source, extreme cold, and damaging chemicals. The storage area shall be clean and sanitary. When completely dry, store respirators in a closable container or bag to minimize contamination. Store respirators so that the face piece, straps and valves are not distorted or damaged.

Respirators for emergency use shall be inspected monthly. Monthly inspections of SCBAs for emergency use shall be documented as required.

SCBA used for shall be recharged when the pressure falls to 90 percent of the manufacturer's recommended pressure level. Only certified Grade D breathing air shall be used to fill SCBAs. Only cylinders with a current hydrostatic test date and no signs of damage shall be filled.