

Cornell University

## ***Toolbox Safety Talk*** ***Respiratory Protection***

Respiratory hazards in the workplace should be controlled whenever possible using engineering, work practice, or administrative controls. However, if these controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employees may need to utilize respiratory protection. Employees who are required to use respiratory protection to perform their work activities must participate in the University [Respiratory Protection Program](#).

### **Respiratory Hazards**

- Harmful dusts (lead, silica, and other heavy metals)
- Fumes and smokes (welding fume)
- Gases and vapors (chemical exposures)
- Oxygen deficiency (oxidation, displacement, and consumption)
- Biological hazards (tuberculosis, whooping cough, flu viruses)

### **Respirator Types**

- Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) clean the air you breathe using filters, cartridges, or canisters. APRs include half face, full face, N95, and PAPR respirators.
- Atmosphere Supplying Respirators supply the user with breathing air from a source independent of the ambient atmosphere. Supplied Air Respirators (SAR) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are examples of atmosphere supplying respirators.

### **Respirator Requirements**

- Prior to issuing respirators, the workplace must first be assessed to determine if there is a need for respiratory protection. Supervisors must contact EH&S at 255-8200 to schedule an assessment.
- If the assessment determines that the use of respiratory protection is required, employees must be medically cleared, trained, and respirator fit tested prior to respirator use.
- Employees who are required to use respirators must also complete the training and fit testing requirements on an annual basis.
- Respirator fit testing and training can be scheduled by contacting EH&S at 255-8200.

### **Respirator Basics**

- Respirators must always be inspected prior to donning. The inspection should check for missing or worn respirator parts.
- For air-purifying respirators, the proper cartridge or filter must be selected based on the hazard.
- Respirator users must don the respirator properly and verify a good fit by performing positive and negative user seal checks each time the respirator is donned.
- Respirator users must know the limitations of their respirator and stay clean shaven in the respirator seal area.
- Employees may not share respirators and must only use the respirator for which they have been fitted for.
- Respirators must be cleaned and stored properly after each use.

Additional information can be found on the [EH&S web page](#), as well as the [OSHA web page](#).

## **Environmental Health & Safety**

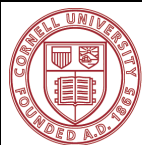
Facilities Safety & Health Section

395 Pine Tree Rd. Suite 210

Ithaca, NY 14850

607.255.8200

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Environmental Health & Safety  
for recordkeeping.*



Cornell University

## ***Toolbox Safety Talk Respiratory Protection***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PRINT NAME</b>	<b>NET ID</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>

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