TOOL BOX TALK – TYPES OF RESPIRATORS:

Air-purifying respirators

- filter contaminants like dust and fibres out of the air
- do NOT supply air or oxygen
- must be matched to specific hazards such as solvent vapours or mist from sprayed form oil
- are specified in material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for controlled products used in construction
- have a limited lifespan based on contaminant levels and filter load (do NOT rely on the stated “expiry date”).

Supplied-air respirators

- supply the wearer with breathable air from a compressor, cylinder, or tank
- offer the BEST protection against many hazards
- have limitations (for instance, air tanks are bulky and air lines can get tangled)
- are the only respirators that can be used for confined space rescue or in dangerous atmospheres.

EXPLAIN DANGER:

- Construction can involve airborne hazards—for
- instance, mist from spray-painting, fumes from welding, vapours from adhesives, and dust from concrete cutting.
- Airborne hazards can have short-term effects
- such as sneezing or long-term effects such as lung disease.

IDENTIFY CONTROL

- Respirators are the last line of defence against airborne hazards.
- When we can’t isolate the hazard or use a different product, we have to wear a respirator.
- There is no all-purpose respirator that can be used in every situation.
- Respirators must be matched to particular hazards.
- There are two basic types of respirator:
- air-purifying and supplied-air.