

Toolbox Talk

60. Respiratory Protective Equipment



What?

- Respiratory protection includes disposable masks, cartridge type respirators and breathing apparatus. Each type gives a different level of protection against dust, gases, vapours and oxygen-deficient atmospheres
- It protects the wearer from noxious gases, vapours, and aerosols or it supplies oxygen or doses of medication to the wearer. Respirators are used widely in industry to protect workers against harmful atmospheres

Why?

- Hazardous fumes and dusts are not always visible
- Very small particles that cannot be seen can enter the lungs causing harmful effects
- Wear suitable respiratory protection or breathing apparatus when working with harmful substances. This is particularly important when undertaking jobs that give off dust, fume and vapour such as aerosols, sanding, grinding, welding etc

Do



- ✓ Select the right respirator for the job
- ✓ Put the respirator on before starting work
- ✓ Make sure you create an effective seal
- ✓ Check filters and cartridges in accordance with the manufacturers instructions
- ✓ Ensure adequate ventilation
- ✓ Put your respirator in safe storage when not in use
- ✓ Keep respirators clean



Don't



- ✗ Work where there is dust, fume and vapour such as aerosols, sanding, grinding, welding etc. without the correct level of respiratory protection
- ✗ Remove your respirator until the work is finished
- ✗ Continue working if the respirator is damaged or fails to operate properly



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