

# AUGUST *Safety Talk*

## Topic: Respiratory Protection

A Respiratory Protection Program is designed to protect workers from harmful airborne substances and oxygen deficient atmospheres in routine and emergency situations when other controls are not possible or effective.



**A respirator should be used if you are:**

- ✓ exposed to high concentrations of dusts, toxic fumes or gases, paint fumes.
- ✓ exposed to an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
- ✓ at risk to accidental exposures.

You must be clean-shaven where the respirator seals with your face.

You must be **fit-tested** annually. Speak to your employer to understand the process at your workplace.

You must also **do a fit-check every time you don the respirator, and before entering an area containing a hazardous atmosphere.**

### Negative Fit Check

Place the palms of the hand over the openings in the filter cartridges and inhale gently. The face piece should collapse slightly.



### Positive Fit Check

Place the palm of the hand over the openings in the exhalation ports and exhale. The face piece should bulge slightly.



If you can't get a proper seal, don't wear the respirator and don't enter any contaminated atmosphere or do work that creates a hazardous respiratory condition.

Clean your respirator after each use. Use mild soap and warm water. NEVER use solvents.

Store your respirator in a clean, dry place, avoid heat and direct sunlight.

If respiratory protection is necessary in your work environment, be sure to wear it. The alternatives – serious injury to your brain, lungs, liver or other internal organs – are not worth the risk!

Be sure that you select the right respirator for the job and ensure that you are using the correct cartridges. One respirator won't necessarily work for all hazards!

Check the MSDS with your Supervisor, or with your Safety Advisor. Please also refer to your respirator manual and/or other reference materials available.

