



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

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Every day in the United States, an estimated 5 million workers are required to wear respiratory protection in about 1.3 million workplaces. Are you supposed to be wearing one?

Respiratory Protection – When?

Respiratory protection is required to be utilized when engineering controls are not possible and there is a presence of dusts, fumes, mists, gases and vapors.

Prior to any work or entry, an evaluation of the workplace shall be done to determine respiratory hazards. If hazards are found they should be mitigated or the proper protection shall be utilized.



Selecting the Proper Respirator

There are two types of respirators utilized at the Town of Perinton

Air Purifying Respirators

Utilized to clean contaminated air prior to inhalation. Typically use a chemical cartridge to accomplish this task.

DO NOT USE FOR:

- Oxygen deficient atmospheres
- Gaseous not detectable by odor
- Gases harmful to eyes and membranes

Dust / Particulate Masks

Utilize to protect from dust, mist and particulate.

Respirator Inspection:

Respirators must be inspected prior to use.

- Verify tightness of connections
- Evaluate entire respirator for dirt, cracks, tears and holes.
- Inspect inhalation and exhalation valves for residue, dust, cracks, tears.
- Ensure canisters are for the hazard present. Verify expiration date.
- Inspect for worn gaskets, threads, clamps, cracks and tears.
- Conduct a self fit test of your respirator by covering intake openings and creating a negative air environment.