

SAFETY TALK RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

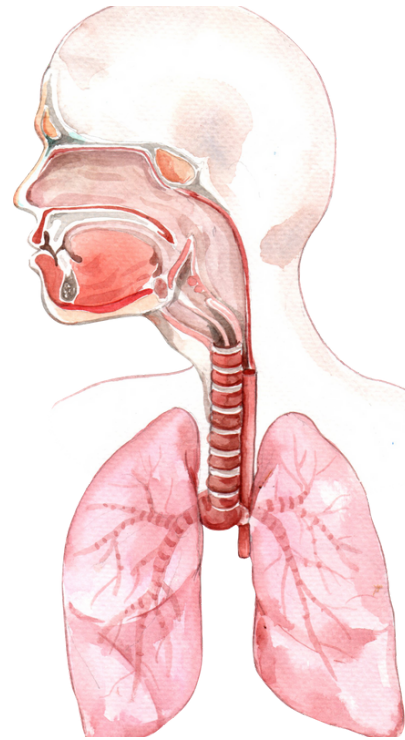
A hazardous contaminant is any substance that is present in the environment that poses a risk to individuals. They can cause serious injury or death if the risks associated with breathing in the contaminants are not controlled. Health & Safety legislation requires that reasonable and practicable steps must be taken to prevent harm from breathing in hazardous airborne contaminants. Often, this involves wearing a mask or respirator.

Respiratory Filter Selection

- Respirator filters can generally be classified as either particulate filters or gas filters. Particulate filters do not filter gases and gas filters do not filter particulates.

Respiratory Fitting

- The respirator must make a tight seal with the wearer's face to be effective. Every worker must undergo a fit test for every respirator they wear on the job, to ensure they can make a seal with the respective respirator, and to ensure it is comfortable enough to wear for the duration of the work.
- Workers must perform a negative and positive pressure self-check every time they don their respirator for work, to check for any leaks. Facial hair longer than a 24-hour growth will break the seal and result in inadequate protection for the wearer. Other factors that can influence correct fit include, weight gain/loss, dental work, makeup, and facial scars.



Maintenance & Storage

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions
- To maintain non-disposable respirators in good working condition, it is important to perform regular inspections and regular cleaning.
- Store respirators in a sealed, cool, dry, and dark place, and should be readily available to encourage the use
- Straps should be checked for any damage on disposable and non-disposable masks.

