Respiratory Protection

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Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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TOPIC: Respiratory Protection

Different atmospheric contaminants require different respirators. Choose the correct, NIOSH-approved respirator for the contaminants in your area. And when necessary, use the appropriate cartridge for your respirator. Change cartridges periodically. Medical evaluations and training must also be provided.

Single-Strap Dust Masks

- Not usually NIOSH approved – NOT for hazardous atmospheres
- May be used to protect against pollen and other allergens

Approved Filtering Face Pieces

- Good for protection against dust, mists, welding fumes, etc.
- Do NOT use to protect against gases, vapors, asbestos, or lead

Half-Face Respirators

- Used for most vapors, acid gases, dust, or welding fumes

Full-Face Respirators

- Superior to half-face respirators, also protect the face and eyes from irritants and contaminants
- Protects against most vapors, acid gases, dust, or welding fumes

Loose-Fitting Powered-Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR)

- A battery-powered fan pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout the helmet or hood for greater breathing comfort
- Fits most workers, even those with beards

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

- Used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDHL) or oxygen deficient; the SCBA uses its own air tank

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