



**ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICE**

**SUBJECT: Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the procedure is to protect people from dangerous atmospheres, including harmful mists, smoke, vapors, and oxygen-deficient

## D. EMPLOYEES

Employees are responsible for the proper use and maintenance of the respirator and cartridges. The employee shall report any problems associated with the RPP to their Supervisor or the EH&S Coordinator immediately.

## VI. REQUIREMENTS

### Usage Requirements

People who use respiratory protection must be physically capable of using and wearing the



## Selecting a Respirator

When selecting a respirator, consider the following factors:

- x Type of hazards
- x Identity and concentration of the contaminant
- x Time constraints
- x Activity of the person wearing the respirator
- x Degree of protection provided by each type of respirator

Follow these guidelines for selecting the correct respirator:

- x Use a HEPA filtered respirator:

- If the contaminant is a biological hazard
  - If the contaminant is a particulate, i.e. asbestos

- x Use a supply air respirator:

- \* If the identity and/or concentration of the contaminant is not known
  - \* If an oxygen deficient atmosphere is known or suspected
  - \* If an IDLH condition exists

- x Use a SCBA instead of an airline respirator if an airline respirator could be damaged by work or conditions within the area.
- x Use an airline respirator instead of an SCBA if the work will require long periods inside the contaminated work area.

### IMPORTANT:

Respirators are available in different sizes. Always fit test a respirator to select the correct size.

## Using Respirators Safely

Follow these guidelines to ensure safe respirator usage:

- x **Do Not** use a respirator unless you have:

- been evaluated by a physician and determined fit to wear a respirator.
  - been formally trained to wear a respirator.
  - been fit tested for the respirator you plan to use.

- x Make sure you have the correct respirator for the job.
- x Inspect respirators before each use.
- x Shave facial hair and put in dentures (if applicable) to ensure a good seal with the facemask.
- x If you are working in a dangerous area, have another person present.
- x Remember that contaminants can harm the body as well as the respiratory tract; wear protective clothing as appropriate.

x Return to fresh air and remove the respirator if the following conditions occur:

- \* You feel nauseous, dizzy, or ill.
- \* You have difficulty breathing.
- \* The canister, cartridge