



Toolbox Talk

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 13

WEEK OF MARCH 28 2011

Basics of Respiratory Protection

This “Toolbox Talk” Safety Meeting must be completed by the designated person and his/her crew on the first day of the week. All crew members must be present and are to sign the form at the completion of the toolbox talk. As part of the safety meeting, please designate someone from the crew to complete the checklist below. The participation and cooperation of all crew members is necessary to ensure a successful safety program. Please return this sheet to the office basket with your timesheet.

FIRST AID KIT FULL

YES NO

WHAT'S MISSING

FIRE EXTINGUISHER
CHARGED & READY

YES NO

JOB NAME:

TRUCK #

There are various types of respirators for employee protection. Therefore, you must identify the type of hazard to determine the type of respirator needed. A self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or supplied air hood are the highest level of protection because they actually deliver clean air directly from a tank or special air compressor to the worker. All other respirators filter the air in the environment (air purifying) so while the filter out contaminants they cannot be used in an oxygen-deficient area.

Dust Masks/single strap – These are the most basic type of fiber filter masks. They fit over the nose and mouth and are for nuisance dusts or mists only. They will **not** filter out chemical vapors, metal fumes, silica particles or other hazards. These are usually worn until dirty and discarded. They are **not** respirators and cannot be fit tested.

N95 Respirator/double strap – These soft fiber respirators can filter airborne particles down to a few microns. They fit over the nose and mouth; however, they do not fit perfectly on everyone and sometimes have gaps around the edges. Also, workers can create gaps around the edge seal when they are speaking or chewing gum. These are also usually worn until dirty and discarded. They take a special test for fit testing.

Half-Face Respirator – These are the most basic elastic polymer (rubber type) air-purifying respirators. When fitted properly they only allow air in through filter cartridge which must be selected specifically for the airborne hazard. They fit over the nose and mouth but do not protect the eyes from chemical exposure. They must be fit tested for the individual worker and should not be shared unless sanitized, readjusted, and fit tested for another worker. They must be cleaned after each use and stored properly when not in use. The filters must be changed per schedule for the cartridge type.

Full-Face Respirator – These are the same as the half-face respirator with the added benefit of protecting the whole face including the eyes from caustic or toxic chemicals. They must be fit tested for the individual worker and should not be shared unless sanitized, readjusted, and fit tested for another worker. They must be cleaned after each use and stored properly when not in use. The filters must be changed per schedule for the cartridge type.

SCBA – The self-contained breathing apparatus is the best protection but it has drawbacks. The worker must wear a heavy tank on the back that has a hose connected to the mask. Also, the time period for a tank is short (30 to 60 minutes). It is generally used for emergency or rescue operations in extremely toxic or oxygen deprived environments and not for everyday tasks. They must be fit tested for the individual worker and should not be shared unless sanitized, readjusted, and fit tested for another worker. They must be cleaned after each use and stored properly when not in use.

Airline Respirator – These respirators have the air hose connected to a pump located in a safe atmosphere. They can be used for long periods but the air supply pump must be the proper type (class D) for transferring air for human breathing. They must be fit tested for the individual worker and should not be shared unless sanitized, readjusted, and fit tested for another worker. They must be cleaned after each use and stored properly when not in use.

“Together We Can Create a Safer Workplace”

Jobsite specific hazards discussed

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Attendance
