

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting _____ AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATORS

PARTICULATE (AEROSOL) REMOVING RESPIRATORS

Air-Purifying Respirators that are designed to protect you against particulates are called DUST, MIST or FUME respirators. They are named after the type of hazard they are protecting you from. Dust and Mist Respirators use filters to protect you against less toxic and less dangerous dusts and mists. The exposure limits established by OSHA will help you determine if the respirator can be used. These respirators are available in Half Mask and Full Face designs.

Dust, mist and fume respirators can be equipped with special "High Efficiency" filters. They are designed for use in atmospheres that contain dusts, mists, fumes or combinations of these contaminants. These respirators can be used in atmospheres where concentration levels and toxicity levels are low. They cannot be used in atmospheres that have low oxygen. They will not protect you from hazardous gases and vapors. They should not be used in heavy abrasive blasting operations. An increase in breathing resistance can indicate the need to replace the filter. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the storage and handling of the filters. Always know what hazards your respirator will protect you against and its limitation.

PROTECTION FROM GASES AND VAPORS

Gas and Vapor Respirators use cartridges or canisters to remove specific substances from the air. The CARTRIDGES or CANISTERS contain sorbents. Sorbents are chemicals that treat the hazardous substance and remove it from the air you breathe.

The difference between a cartridge and a canister is the size of the container. Canisters are larger containers that hold more sorbent. They can, therefore, protect you for a longer amount of time. The cartridges are smaller and contain less sorbent, but are also lighter, more comfortable and allow greater mobility.

Some cartridges (and canisters) will protect you from a single chemical such as "Ammonia." Other cartridges will protect you against an entire class of chemicals like "Organic Vapors."

Always read the label on the cartridge or canister. It identifies the contaminant and maximum concentration of the contaminant it will protect against. It also identifies the service life and the expiration date.

Gas and vapor respirators have many limitations. They cannot supply oxygen and cannot be worn in oxygen deficient atmospheres. They should not be used if the chemical they are protecting you against does not have adequate warning properties such as odor, taste or

irritation. Without these warning properties you could breathe contaminated air when the sorbent in the cartridge (or canister) is used up.

Gas and Vapor Respirators should not be used in IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) Areas except for escape. Remember, these respirators only provide protection against specific hazards. Use them only for protection against the gas or vapor they were designed to protect you against. They may be worthless against other gases or vapors.