

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 _____ **RESPIRATORS – CARE AND USE** _____

Many operations in the Construction Industry require the use of respirators, so it is important that they are properly maintained. Your respirator must be cleaned, inspected, stored, and in good repair if you expect it to work properly and protect your health.

CLEANING

At the end of each work-shift, you should clean and disinfect your respirator if it was used. If you share a respirator, it should be cleaned and disinfected before the next person uses it. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Your supervisor should insure that you and your co-workers know how to clean your respirators.

INSPECTION

Respirators need to be inspected before and after each use. Inspections will help prevent you from using a damaged respirator. A damaged respirator may not provide you with proper protection from exposure to harmful chemicals. Manufacturer's instructions for inspecting respirators should always be followed. Your supervisor should randomly inspect your respirator. A damaged respirator should never be used, but should be given to your supervisor for repair or disposal.

REPAIR/REPLACE

Sooner or later your respirator will need to be repaired or have parts replaced. The law requires that people who repair certain respirators be well trained. Employers should ensure that a properly trained individual repair complex respirators like airline systems and self-contained breathing apparatus. Replacement parts for any type of respirator must come from the manufacturer of the respirator. The NIOSH approval of the respirator is not valid if parts from a different manufacturer are used. The respirator may appear to work just as well with the substitute parts, but they should **NEVER BE USED**.

STORAGE

Your respirator needs to be stored in a convenient and clean location and not just tossed into your tool or job box. The law requires that respirators be protected from dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture and damaging or contaminating chemicals. Don't ever place things on top of your respirator that would cause the sealing surfaces to distort or bend out of shape. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for storing your respirator.