

Spotlight On Safety

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RESPIRATORY PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Protecting your respiratory system against airborne contaminants consists of three methods: local engineering controls, administrative controls, and respiratory protection equipment. Local engineering controls involve fume hoods and local exhaust systems (most efficient method). Administrative controls consist of substitutions with less toxic materials, and reassessing task to minimize or eliminate exposure (job rotations). Respiratory protection equipment is available when the first two controls aren't feasible, not yet in place, or inadequate. The following explain more about the equipment.

Respiratory Protection Equipment

- Only employees designated by their supervisor, principle investigator, or EH&S, and who have been medically approved, properly fitted, and trained are authorized to use respiratory protection equipment
- Face shape, facial hair, eyeglasses, missing dentures, and certain skin conditions can all affect respirator fit (proper fit ensures effective protection)
- Quantitative or qualitative fit testing is required before any equipment can be issued (EH&S provides fit testing, training, and maintains all records)

When to Apply for Respiratory Protection Equipment

- When there is a concern for exposure to harmful dusts, fumes, mists, vapors, or gases
- Other control measures are not feasible or adequate to reduce exposures
- Whether you are requesting a respirator for the first time or are renewing, please complete the [Respiratory Protection Request form](#) online annually on the EH&S Respiratory Protection Page: <https://ehs.ucr.edu/safety/respiratory-protection>

Respirator Protection Equipment Program Elements

- Medical History Questionnaire and Pulmonary Function Test - EH&S provides a Medical History Questionnaire Form to the designated employee. Respirator fit testing and training proceeds once EH&S receives clearance from the contracted occupational medical provider
- Respiratory Protection Training - Anyone requiring a respirator (including all single use/ disposable) must be informed of their proper use, maintenance, and limitations
- Respirator Fit Testing - EH&S conducts a quantitative or qualitative fit test when all the above elements are met

Respirator User's Responsibilities

- Use, inspect, and maintain respirator according to training received and instructions
- Ensure training and fit testing is conducted annually and perform medical clearance base upon periodicity outlined by EH&S.
- Contact EH&S if conditions of respirator use change, respirator does not work properly, if you suspect a problem with respirator, or you no longer require a respirator for your job
- Reschedule for a future date if scheduled appointments can't be made (**No-Show** fee is charged if written/verbal cancellation is not received 24 hours prior scheduled appointment)

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 951-827-5528 if you have any questions.