

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

© SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES PO Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 Vol 25 No 15 Week of 4/15/2002

Company Name

Joseph Lee Const

Job Name

Date

4-15-02

RESPIRATORS

Respirators prevent us from inhaling a wide range of toxins and hazardous materials. They protect against dust containing lead, asbestos, silica and radioactive particles, against vapors and gases like acids, chlorine and carbon monoxide, and against biological agents like mold and viruses. If you are not protected by a respirator, working in a hazardous atmosphere can lead to permanent respiratory damage, cancer, heart disease, chronic illnesses and death. Standard respirators are adequate in many situations but if the atmosphere is immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) an atmosphere-supplying respirator must be worn.

Employers need to select and provide NIOSH certified respirators that are appropriate for the atmospheric hazards present. Before you use a respirator you must undergo medical screening and fit testing. Many factors can change the fit of a respirator, including the growth of facial hair, surgery or a significant change in weight. Perform a user seal check, as well as positive and negative pressure tests, every time you put on a respirator. To perform a positive pressure test, cover the exhalation valve with the palm of your hand and blow. You should

feel air escaping around the seal of the mask. To perform a negative pressure test, cover the inhalation valve with your hand and inhale. The mask should collapse on your face. Hold the valve closed for 3 to 5 seconds. If a leak is detected, adjust the straps closest to the leak and repeat the test until air is no longer leaking. Do not rely on a leaking respirator for protection.

OSHA requires employers to develop a written respiratory protection program that, among other things, addresses the following: 1) procedures for selecting respirators for use in the workplace, 2) medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators, 3) fit testing procedures, 4) procedures for proper use of respirators, 5) procedures and schedules for cleaning, disinfecting, storing and inspecting respirators, and 6) employee training on respiratory hazards and the proper use of respirators, including putting them on and removing them, and any limitations of their use.

If at any time while wearing a respirator you experience trouble breathing or smell anything out of the ordinary, leave the area **immediately!**

Using the wrong filter or wearing a poorly fitting respirator in a toxic atmosphere can be as deadly as not wearing one at all!

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project

Employee Safety Recommendations

Reviewed MSDS #

Subject

Meeting Attended By

Jan V. Hrap

Marciana Stokes

Reginald S. H. Hock

Robert Hogg

George Fertin

Supervisor's Signature