

Safety meeting blueprint

✓ **Meeting Topic:** Respiratory protection

✓ **Today's Date:** _____

✓ **Attendee Signatures:**

You might have heard about the recent incident in which a worker entered a confined space wearing a dust mask. A few hours later, the man came out of the space in a body bag – even though he was wearing his safety gear.

What happened?

The victim was using the wrong type of respirator. He needed a supplied-air device to safeguard him from the lack of oxygen in the space.

This incident illustrates the importance of not only using respiratory protection when you could be exposed to harmful dust, fog, smoke, mist, gas, vapor, or spray but also the importance of selecting the right gear for the specific hazards you could encounter.

Different types

To make sure you use the proper gear, it pays to understand the different types of respirators.

Particulate respirators, which are also known as dust masks, are the simplest and least

protective of the different respirator types. They protect against dust only; they won't safeguard you from chemicals, gases, or vapors, and they're discarded after one use.

Removable cartridges

For more dangerous environments, select air-purifying respirators that have removable cartridges designed to target specific types of contaminants.

(How do you choose the right cartridge for an air-purifying respirator?)

Cartridges are assigned a color to designate the type of hazardous substance they filter out. For instance, a green cartridge provides protection from ammonia gas.

Talk to me or another supervisor if you're not sure which colored cartridge to choose.

Important: Cartridges must be periodically replaced. Some have end-of-service life indicators to show when to swap them out; others must be replaced on a regular schedule depending on the

frequency of use and the nature of the hazards.

For even more dangerous environments, select a powered air-purifying respirator, which has a battery that draws air through the cartridge and blows it into a full facepiece, helmet, or hood.

Or you could choose a self-contained breathing apparatus, which supplies clean air from a compressor or a pressurized air tank.

Proper fit

No matter which type of respirator you select, make sure the gear fits properly, because if the respirator doesn't form a tight seal all the way around your face when you inhale, you could breathe in contaminated air.

To verify proper fit, use a positive-pressure or a negative-pressure check.

If you're not sure how to conduct these checks, ask for help from me or another supervisor.

Thanks for your attention. And remember, let's stay safe out there!

(See next page for test)

Safety meeting blueprint: Test your knowledge

Meeting Topic: Respiratory protection

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|---|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Which type of respirator supplies clean air from a compressor or a pressurized air tank?</p> <p>a. Powered air-purifying respirator
b. Self-contained breathing apparatus
c. Particulate respirator
d. Dust mask</p> | <p>is to conduct a positive-pressure check. True or False?</p> <p>4. Particulate respirators safeguard you from</p> <p>a. Chemicals
b. Dust
c. Gases
d. Vapors</p> | <p>a. Dust masks
b. Color cartridges
c. Positive-pressure devices
d. None of the above</p> <p>7. As long as you're wearing some type of respiratory protection, you don't need to be aware of the specific hazards you could encounter. True or False?</p> | <p>9. You should use respiratory protection when you could be exposed to harmful</p> <p>a. Dust
b. Gases
c. Vapors
d. All of the above</p> |
| <p>2. What's the best way to select the right cartridge for the hazards you could face?</p> <p>a. Look at the label on the cartridge
b. Look at the label on the respirator
c. Look at the color of the cartridge
d. None of the above</p> | <p>5. What is the name of the safety gear that has color-coded cartridges designed to eliminate specific types of contaminants?</p> <p>a. Dust mask
b. Self-contained breathing apparatus
c. Air-purifying respirator
d. None of the above</p> | <p>8. Which type of respirator has a battery that draws air through the cartridge and blows it into a full facepiece, helmet, or hood?</p> <p>a. Dust mask
b. Self-contained breathing apparatus
c. Particulate respirator
d. Powered air-purifying respirator</p> | <p>10. Once you've chosen a respirator cartridge, you don't have to worry about replacing it, because it'll last as long as the safety gear does. True or False?</p> |
| <p>3. One way to ensure that a respirator fits properly</p> | <p>6. Particulate respirators are also known as</p> | | <p>11. The simplest and least protective type of respirator is</p> <p>a. Particulate respirator
b. Air-purifying respirator
c. Self-contained breathing apparatus
d. None of the above</p> |

Test your knowledge: The answers

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| <p>1. b
safeguard you from the specific hazards you could encounter during the task.</p> <p>2. c
3. True. If you're not sure how to conduct a positive-pressure check, talk to your supervisor.</p> <p>4. b
5. c
6. a
7. False. The respiratory protection equipment must be designed to</p> <p>8. d
9. d
10. False. Cartridges must be periodically replaced. Some of them have end-of-service life indicators that show when to swap them out.</p> <p>11. a</p> | |
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