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Safe Work Practice

Name of Job: Care and use of Respirators	Development Date: February 14th, 2011	Developed By: CSNS
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Possible Hazards Present

Dust	Sand	Toxic Fumes
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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Devices Recommended

Respirators

What are some good general safe work practices?

- **DO** ensure you are fully trained and fit tested on respiratory equipment.
- **DO** ensure you are conversant with any site specific procedures and the manufacturer recommendations for use.
- **DO** inspect respiratory equipment prior to each use.
- **DO** inspect respiratory equipment after each use.
- **DO** ensure respirators are cleaned and disinfected as per manufacturer specifications.
- **DO** store respirators away from contaminated areas when not in use.
- **DO** leave contaminated area IMMEDIATELY and contact your supervisor if you smell or taste contaminants or if dizziness, irritation or other distress occurs.
- **DO NOT** use in atmospheres where oxygen levels are less than 19.5%. Respirators do not supply oxygen
- **DO NOT** alter abuse or misuse respirator.
- **DO NOT** use with beards or other facial hair or other conditions that prevent a good seal between the face and the face seal of the respirator.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at constructionsafetyns.ca or 1.800.971.3888.



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- **DO** replace cartridges in accordance with established change schedule or earlier if smell, taste or irritation from contaminants is detected.
- **DO** conduct fit testing regularly, especially after weight loss or gain, to ensure you are utilizing the proper size respirator.
- **DO** Conduct seal checks every time you don your respirator:
 - Positive pressure user seal check
 - Cover the opening in exhalation valve with your hand and exhale gently. If face piece bulges slightly and no air leaks are detected between your face and face piece, a proper seal has been obtained.
 - If face seal air leakage is detected, reposition respirator on your face and/or readjust tension of elastic straps to eliminate leakage.
 - Negative pressure user seal check
 - Place your hands over the cartridge (cartridge must be attached) to restrict air flow.
 - Inhale gently. If you feel face piece collapse slightly and pull closer to your face with no leaks between the face and face piece, a proper seal has been obtained.
 - If face seal air leakage is detected, reposition respirator on your face and/or readjust tension of elastic straps to eliminate leakage.

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