

Toolbox Talk

Respiratory Protective Equipment



What?

- Respiratory protection includes disposable masks, cartridge type respirators and breathing apparatus
- Each type gives a different level of protection against dust, gases, vapours and oxygen-deficient atmospheres
- It protects the wearer from noxious gases, vapours, and aerosols or it supplies oxygen or doses of medication to the wearer
- Respirators are used widely in industry to protect workers against harmful atmospheres



Why?

- Hazardous fumes and dusts are not always visible
- Very small particles that cannot be seen can enter the lungs causing harmful effects
- Wear suitable respiratory protection or breathing apparatus when working with harmful substances
- This is particularly important when undertaking jobs that give off dust, fume and vapour such as aerosols, sanding, grinding, welding etc.



Do



- ✓ Select the right respirator for the job
- ✓ Put the respirator on before starting work
- ✓ Make sure you create an effective seal
- ✓ Check filters and cartridges in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- ✓ Ensure adequate ventilation
- ✓ Put your respirator in safe storage when not in use
- ✓ Keep respirators clean

Don't



- ✗ Work where there is dust, fume and vapour such as aerosols, sanding, grinding, welding etc. without the correct level of respiratory protection
- ✗ Remove your respirator until the work is finished
- ✗ Continue working if the respirator is damaged or fails to operate properly