



VOLUNTARY RESPIRATOR USER INFORMATION

Filtering-facepiece respirators (dust masks) are an effective method of protection against many *particulate* hazards when properly selected and worn. *Voluntary* respirator use is encouraged by County Heat Treat to provide an added level of protection for workers *if they choose it*. County Heat Treat will provide respirators for your voluntary use, if requested. It should be noted that respirators which are used improperly or kept in poor condition can become a hazard to the worker. Because of these concerns the following precautions must be taken to ensure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard to you the user.

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning, care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations. For dust masks this includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a) always use both elastic bands to secure the respirator.
 - b) ensure center rubber exhalation valve is in place if applicable.
 - c) Discontinue use of mask if experiencing discomfort, dizziness or nausea
 - d) ensure best fit by keeping face clean shaven at mask contact points.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the possible contaminant of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you. Only "R" or "P" prefix certified respirators can be used in areas where the possible contaminant is oil mist or welding fumes.
3. Do not wear your respirator in atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles may not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke. *They are never to be worn in areas where the oxygen level is low as they will not provide breathing air.* Consult your supervisor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your voluntary respirator use.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator. Change out to a new respirator once the one you are using becomes dirty or sweaty or contaminated.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____