



## RESPIRATORS

are a common form of PPE (personal protective equipment) used to prevent the inhalation of airborne debris and noxious substances. When the airborne contaminant level approaches, meets, or exceeds the permissible exposure limit (PEL) determined by OSHA, then employees will be required to wear a respirator. If the airborne contaminant level has not reached the PEL, then employees may request to voluntarily wear a respirator. All respirator use, including voluntary, requires supervisory approval, training, and – depending on the style of respirator – fit testing as outlined in the UO Respiratory Protection Program. In accordance with OSHA, EHS will only authorize respirators certified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NIOSH)

### PROGRAM STEPS:

1. You will be informed by your supervisor if respirator use is required for your job. If it is not required and you want to voluntarily wear a respirator, then tell your supervisor.
2. Prior to respirator use in the workplace, supervisors will contact EHS at [ehsinfo@uoregon.edu](mailto:ehsinfo@uoregon.edu) to arrange for a consultation.
3. The consultation will include:
  - a. A review the work being performed to ensure a respirator that is appropriate for the hazards faced is selected.
  - b. Voluntary and required users of respirators must complete the training requirements.
  - c. Depending on several factors, including style and intended use, employees may undergo a fit test and complete a medical questionnaire prior to respirator use.
4. Once all the above have been completed, then employees may wear their respirator.

### WHAT TO KNOW!

- Respirators that are not pre-approved by supervisors, including respirators that are privately purchased and brought to the workplace are not allowed to be worn at the university.
- If employees grow facial hair, then they must be clean shaven where the respirator touches the face prior to a fit test and respirator use.
- Only wear the respirator that EHS has authorized you to wear!
- Inform EHS if there have been any changes to the work
- If you experience any respirator leakage, then stop work **IMMEDIATELY** and leave the work area. After you have left the work area, remove your respirator and call EHS for assistance.
- Call **911** and **Security Operations Center** (541-346-2919) for assistance in an emergency!



Before use complete a training and a fitting!



Pay attention to respirator warning symbols!



Left: N95 (respirator) Right: standard dust mask (not a respirator)

