



eSafetyLine

Which Type is Best For the Job?

The identity and nature of the material in question will determine if an air-purifying or air-supplying respirator is needed. Air-purifying respirators use filters, cartridges or canisters to clean air by passing air through the filter to remove the contaminants. Air-supplying respirators provide clean air to the user from a source other than the air around the user. Air-supplying respirators must be used when there is a lack of oxygen.

There are three commonly used air-purifying respirators. Particulate respirators are used to remove particles such as dust, mist and fumes, but don't work for gases and vapors. Gas and vapor respirators use chemical cartridge or canister to remove the dangerous substance from the air. The cartridge or canister used is specific to a given gas or vapor. They don't protect against any particulate contaminants. Combination respirators should be used in situations that contain both harmful particulates and a dangerous gas or vapor. The downside of this type is its weight; they are heavier than either the particulate or gas and vapor respirators.

Air-supplied respirators deliver clean air through a hose from a fixed source. The source may be a tank or clean air pumped along the hose from an area outside the work zone. A self-contained breathing apparatus allows the worker to carry the clean air in a wearable, clean-air supply pack. [Air-supplied respirators are usually used in areas where the air is not immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)]. Also available are combination respirators, which use a fixed air source but also have a small self-contained air supply. The self-contained air supply will allow a worker to escape when necessary.

The type of respirator that is used depends on what the hazards that are present at the jobsite. The consistent use of the correct respirator can prevent any long-term damage to the lungs from the jobsite.

Discussion Questions

What are the main types of respirators available?

Which respirator is the right type for your jobsite? Why?

**MEETING / TRAINING
ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/_____

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

____/____/____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

____/____/____
Date