

# RESPIRATOR SAFETY CHECKLIST

## Basics of respirator use:

- Use air-supplying type when area has too little oxygen.
- Use when area has dangerous levels of an airborne contaminant despite use of engineering controls.
- Wear the type of respirator specified for the job and hazards.
- Have "buddy" in contact during use to provide rescue if wearer is overcome.
- Wear safety harness on line when required.

## Get a good fit:

- Have fit test on assignment.
- Check fit before each use to be sure respirator:
  - Is secure but not too tight around chin.
  - Allows room to move head and talk.
  - Doesn't slip or pinch nose.
- Report any fit or use problems
- Be alert for common fitting problems such as:
  - Breathing difficulties.
  - Heat sensitivity.
  - Heart condition.
  - Fear of confined spaces.
  - Missing dentures.
  - Facial hair or facial structure.
  - Skullcaps.
  - Eyeglasses (Caution: Don't wear contact lenses!)
- Practice tasks while wearing respirator.

## Maintain respirators properly:

- Inspect before and after each use for:
  - Tight connections.
  - Holes, tears, or snags.
  - Deterioration of rubber parts, in face piece and its seal, headband, valves, connecting tube, fittings, and canister or cartridge.
  - Dents or corrosion in filters, cartridges, and canisters.
- Be sure air or oxygen cylinders are fully charged before use.
- Check that regulators and warning devices work properly.
- Wash and sanitize after use when needed.
- Leave repairs to specially trained technicians.
- Store away from dust, sunlight, extreme heat, cold, moisture, or chemicals.
- Store in "normal" position so they'll hold shape.