

Safety Note # 129

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS



Supervisors play an important role in the UC ANR Respiratory Protection Program. Supervisors are responsible for working with EH&S to conduct hazard assessments, select appropriate protective equipment, and assure that users are trained in use of that equipment. Supervisors are also expected to oversee proper use and maintenance of respirators by their employees on the job. This includes assisting with pre-use authorizations, initiating contact with EH&S when conditions change, and providing respirator supplies and replacement parts to employees.

ANR EH&S Responsibilities – Oversight of the UC ANR Respiratory Protection Program

- Establish and administer a Respiratory Protection Program that meets all applicable regulatory requirements for respirator use in the workplace. UC ANR EH&S is responsible for the implementation of, and adherence to, the provisions outlined in current regulations (CCR Title 3, Section 6739, CCR Title 8, Section 5144, CCR Title 8 Section 5199, and CCR Title 8 Section 3380).
- Assist supervisors and employees to interpret and comply with respiratory protection regulations.
- Provide guidance documents, training materials, consultation, respirator fit testing services, and respiratory protection training (see the calendar on the EH&S website for fit testing schedule).
- Administer program records and conduct an annual evaluation of the Respiratory Protection Program.
- Assist supervisors with incident investigations involving respiratory hazards or use of respirators.
- Conduct site reviews and exposure monitoring activities to identify and assess airborne hazards that may be present in the workplace.
- Designate Physician or other Licensed Health Care Professional (PLHCP) for required medical services and work with supervisors to coordinate access to services. Communicate program information and respirator information to PLHCP.

Supervisor Responsibilities – Oversight of respirator use by employees under their direction

- Work with EH&S to document a hazard assessment to determine if respirator use is required. Provide information and training to respirator users about respiratory hazard(s), including SDS, pesticide labels, or other risk assessment information as needed.
- Ensure that employees are medically evaluated and fit tested before they are allowed to wear a tight-fitting elastomeric respirator. Ensure that employees using N95 respirators without a medical evaluation meet voluntary use requirements.
- Assure that employees under their direction get initial and annual training and fit test (when required).
- Provide a means of cleaning and storing equipment, provide replaceable respirator parts, and assure that defective equipment is removed from service.
- Assure employees only wear the brand and size of respirator they were fit tested in. Employees who use multiple respirators must be fit tested for each different brand and size of respirator.
- Maintain recent records of employee training, medical clearance, and fit test results for immediate review by external agencies.
- Assure that respirator users have access to, and familiarity with, the current heat illness plan and emergency response procedures for possible exposure events.