
Respiratory Protection Training

611.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health of members through appropriate training on the use of respirators to avoid breathing air that is contaminated with harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, and vapors.

This policy identifies which members must receive respiratory protection training, the minimum training curriculum, and the requirements for recurrent training (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602).

611.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Respirator or respiratory protection - Personal protective equipment (PPE) designed to protect the wearer from airborne contaminants, oxygen deficiency or both.

611.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to protect the health of members by providing respiratory protection training.

611.3 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

611.3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS TO BE TRAINED

The district shall provide effective respiratory protection training to all members who are required or expected to utilize respirators.

Members shall be trained, based on their duties, if they (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) Use respirators.
- (b) Supervise respirator users.
- (c) Issue, repair or adjust respirators.

611.3.2 MANNER OF TRAINING

The district will present effective training using qualified instructors. Training may be provided using audiovisuals, slide presentations, formal classroom discussion, informal discussions during safety meetings, training programs conducted by outside sources or a combination of these methods.

Instructors should be available to provide responses to questions, evaluate the participants' understanding of the material and provide other instructional interaction.

Respirators used in training shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602).

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611.3.3 FREQUENCY OF TRAINING

The district will provide respiratory protection training:

- (a) Initially, before work site respirator use begins.
- (b) Periodically but within 12 months of the previous training.
- (c) Additionally, when the following occurs:
 - 1. The member has not retained knowledge or skills.
 - 2. Changes in the work site or type of respirator make previous training incomplete or obsolete.

After completing initial training, each member shall practice, at least quarterly, for each type and manufacturer of respiratory equipment that is available for use, the step-by-step procedure for donning the respirator and checking it for proper function (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602).

611.3.4 CONTENTS OF TRAINING

Members shall receive training for each type and manufacturer of respiratory equipment that is available for their use, including the step-by-step procedure for donning the respirator and checking it for proper function. Required training shall include (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) Recognizing hazards that may be encountered.
- (b) Understanding the components of the respirator.
- (c) Understanding the safety features and limitations of the respirator.
- (d) Donning and doffing the respirator.

Members shall be thoroughly trained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on emergency procedures, such as the use of the regulator bypass valve, corrective action to take for facepiece and breathing tube damage, and breathing directly from the regulator (where applicable).

611.3.5 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

In order to successfully complete training, members must be able to demonstrate the following knowledge and skills, as required by their duties:

- (a) Why the respirator is necessary, including identifying respiratory hazards, such as hazardous chemicals, the extent of the members' exposure and potential health effects and symptoms.
- (b) The respirator's capabilities and limitations, including how the respirator provides protection and why air-purifying respirators cannot be used in oxygen-deficient conditions.
- (c) How improper fit, use or maintenance can compromise the respirator's effectiveness and reliability.
- (d) How to properly inspect, put on, seal check, use and remove the respirator.

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- (e) How to clean, disinfect, repair and store the respirator.
- (f) How to use the respirator effectively in emergency situations, including what to do when a respirator fails and where emergency respirators are stored.
- (g) Medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of respirators.

611.4 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining records of all respiratory protection training that is provided to members (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602). At a minimum, the district should document:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of the topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of the members who received the training.
- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.
- (e) Documentation of each member's demonstrated performance in meeting the standards detailed in this policy.

The Training Coordinator should maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.