

# **Personal Protective Equipment Use Procedure**

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this procedure to is provide a respiratory protection plan to protect the safety of members who may be exposed to respiratory hazards in the course of their duty assignments.

## **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PLAN**

## **EQUIPMENT SELECTION**

## **FIT TESTING**

## **MEDICAL EVALUATION**

## **INVENTORY CONTROL**

## **ISSUANCE AND REPLACEMENT**

## **MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING**

## **PLAN REVIEW**

## **REMAINING CURRENT**

## **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE**

*The following information is provided to assist you as you create and implement a procedure using the framework provided and should be deleted before the procedure is issued to agency personnel.*

### **Personal Protective Equipment Use Procedure**

#### **SELECTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Federal regulations provide guidance for the selection and use of personal protective equipment. Everything contained in the referenced federal regulations will not apply to law enforcement. However, federal regulations are a starting place, and you should refer to the regulations cited in this document when writing your procedure. You may want to consult with fire departments, a local emergency management organization, or other law enforcement agencies in your area for advice or procedures that are suitable, with slight modification, for your agency. You should also refer to your personal protective equipment policy as you develop your procedure.

The Personal Protective Equipment Policy contains the necessary information regarding hearing, eye, head, and body protection. Additionally, your state may maintain standards for the selection and use of this equipment. You should check these references when developing your procedure. The information contained here is intended to inform your efforts to write your procedure. It is not exhaustive. General requirements for personal protective equipment are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1910.132).

#### **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PLAN**

Lexipol's Personal Protective Equipment Policy requires the creation of a respiratory protection plan and outlines the requirements of the plan. The goal for this procedure is to direct your agency to the appropriate standards that should be met. To begin the process of creating a plan, your agency should select a person to manage the plan and then have that person trained. You may also want to consider the following.

#### **EQUIPMENT SELECTION**

- You should select respiratory equipment that is approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Those may include:
  - Perimeter hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents:
    - Full facepiece (NIOSH approval TC 14G) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) cartridge
  - Perimeter or within crowd control with the presence of tear gas:
    - Full facepiece air purifying respirator, TC 14G, chloroacetophenone cartridge or canister (combination organic vapor/particulate)

- Respiratory illness
  - N95 particulate respirator, TC 84A
- The respiratory equipment should protect members from exposure to respiratory hazards that they are expected to encounter.

## **FIT TESTING**

Members should be properly fitted with a respirator before wearing. Your state may have protocols for fit testing. You should find those and include them in your procedure. If your state does not maintain a fit testing protocol, you may want to refer to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard:

- OSHA fit testing protocols are contained in the Code of Federal Regulation (29 CFR 1910.134, App. A).
- Fit testing is required annually at a minimum (29 CFR 1910(f)(2)).

## **MEDICAL EVALUATION**

Prior to wearing a respirator, members should be medically evaluated to ensure they can safely use the equipment. Some states have standards for medical evaluation. You should research the standards in your state and include them in your procedure. If your state does not maintain a standard for medical evaluation, you may want to use the following:

- OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (29 CFR 1910.134, App. C)

## **INVENTORY CONTROL**

The respiratory protection plan manager should:

- Maintain inventory sufficient to meet the needs of the members to whom respirators are assigned.
- Consider long-term budgeting.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for shelf life and storage of respirators and associated parts, and order replacements as necessary.

## **ISSUANCE AND REPLACEMENT**

- Members should be issued respiratory equipment that is clean, sanitary, and in good working condition.
- Respiratory equipment should be inspected regularly and replaced if it is determined to be in disrepair or it is required according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

## **MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING**

Respirators are not maintenance free. In addition to regular cleaning and inspection, respirators should be thoroughly cleaned after each use. NIOSH requires manufacturers of respirators to include maintenance and cleaning requirements along with each product sold. You should follow the maintenance and cleaning requirements included with your equipment.

Additionally, OSHA maintains an extensive database related to the maintenance and care of respirators ([www.osha.gov/video/respiratory\\_protection/maintenance\\_transcript.html](http://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/maintenance_transcript.html)).

## **PLAN REVIEW**

The respiratory maintenance plan should be reviewed on a yearly basis to ensure that it remains current.

## **REMAINING CURRENT**

The plan manager should remain up to date regarding this subject matter through continued training and periodic review of OSHA, NIOSH, and pertinent federal regulations. If you are assigned to manage the respiratory protection plan, you should use the resources that are readily available to you to maintain your knowledge base.

## **RESOURCES**

- The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has produced a model respiratory protection plan for law enforcement. Agencies in California should make use of the publication. Agencies outside of California may request permission for similar use.  
([post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post\\_docs/publications/Respiratory\\_Protection.pdf](http://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/Respiratory_Protection.pdf))
- OSHA ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov))
- NIOSH ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm))