



# SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

## Respiratory Protection

An estimated 5 million workers are required to wear respirators in 1.3 million workplaces throughout the United States. Respirators protect workers against insufficient oxygen environments, harmful dust, fogs smoke, mist, gases, vapors, and sprays. These hazards may cause cancer, lung impairment, diseases, or death. Compliance with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (Title 29 CFR 1910.134) could avert hundreds of deaths and thousands of illnesses annually.



### Respirators protect the user in two basic ways:

1. Removal of contaminants from the air. Respirators of this type include particulate respirators, which filter out airborne particles, and air-purifying respirators with cartridges/canisters which filter out chemicals and gases.
2. Other respirators protect by supplying clean respirable air from another source. Respirators that fall into this category include airline respirators, which use compressed air from a remote source, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which include their own air supply.



For more information about respiratory protection visit the OSHA website at <https://www.osha.gov> or contact Beacon Mutual to have a loss prevention representative assist you with your program.

### Respiratory Protection Program

Employers who require workers to use respiratory protection devices are mandated by OSHA to develop a written Respiratory Protection Program. Programs elements include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental testing and review of safety data sheets
- Providing medical evaluations for all affected employees prior to work assignments
- Providing annual employee respirator fit testing
- Developing cartridge change schedules
- Conducting annual employee training specific to the use of respirators including: donning, doffing, cleaning, storage and user seal tests
- Conducting an annual review of the written respiratory program
- Voluntary use of respirators by employees



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information. [www.beaconmutual.com](http://www.beaconmutual.com)

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