



LAKE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
County Procedure

Title: RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

Number: ES-5.01.07

Approved: October 12, 2012

Cancels: Respiratory
Protection Program
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April 5, 2012

Originator: Human Resources

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I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this document is to provide a written description of Lake County's Respiratory Protection Program.

II. REFERENCES

Employment Policies Manual, 10/1/11, 5.1 Safety Policy

III. APPLICABILITY

This procedure applies to all work operations where Lake County employees may be exposed to breathable hazards including but not limited to harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Respirator Use and Selection

1. Individual County departments are responsible for the expense, determination of type and identification of those positions that require respiratory protection devices.
2. Supervisors are responsible for the following:
 - a. Providing adequate respiratory protection devices for employees;

- b. Ensuring that employees who must enter designated areas that require a respirator receive training;
 - c. Ensuring that employees pass a respirator fit test; and
 - d. Ensuring that employees are medically evaluated.
3. Employees are responsible for the following:
 - a. Wearing a respirator in the designated areas while performing those tasks that require respirator use;
 - b. Requesting new respirator when needed; and
 - c. Exercising proper care and cleaning of the respirator.
4. Respiratory protection is considered the last resort and must not be substituted for engineering controls where such controls are feasible. Supervisors are responsible for determining the proper type of respirator for each specific job task.
5. The following are five (5) basic types of respiratory protection devices:
 - a. Mechanical Filters offer protection against airborne particulate matter including dusts, mists, metal fumes, and smokes. Masks are composed of a soft resilient material full or half mask face piece to which one of several types of mechanical filters are attached. The filters are made of fibrous materials, which physically trap particles as air is inhaled through the materials. These respirators are “Non-Emergency” respiratory protective devices and should never be used in dangerous atmospheres. Oxygen must be present at all times to support life.
 - b. Chemical Cartridge Respirators afford protection against high concentrations of certain acid gases and organic vapors by utilizing various chemical filters to purify the inhaled air. These respirators are “Non-Emergency” respiratory protective devices and should never be used in dangerous atmospheres. Oxygen must be present at all times to support life.
 - c. Combination Respirators are dust, mist or fume mechanical filters plus a chemical cartridge for dual or multiple exposures. These respirators are “Non-Emergency” respiratory protective devices and should never be used in dangerous atmospheres. Oxygen must be present at all times to support life.

- d. Air Supplied Respirators feature air that is supplied from a stationary or remote source to the wearer through a hose. Air supplying respirators are divided into three types: hose-masks; air-line respirators; and abrasive blasting hoods.
 - e. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) feature a unique aspect in that the wearer need not be connected to a stationary air source. This type of respirator provides protection against all types of atmosphere contaminants in any concentration that can be endured by the skin.
6. Personal respiratory protection equipment will be provided and used when:
- a. It is impossible to enclose or isolate a hazardous process or piece of equipment;
 - b. Necessary ventilation cannot be provided or is not yet installed;
 - c. Other control measures are not feasible; or
 - d. It is recommended for possible emergency situations.

B. Medical Evaluation

All employees who are required to wear a respirator will be medically evaluated to determine that the employee is physically able to perform work and wear the respirator. A respirator places a physiological stress upon the wearer and makes it difficult to breathe while wearing one due to the fact that respirators impede airflow to the lungs.

C. Training

Supervisors or their designees are responsible to train employees on the following:

- 1. Definition of a respirator(s), selection and use;
- 2. Proper storage, maintenance, cleaning and pre-use inspection;
- 3. Fit tests and point of use fit check;
- 4. The manufacturer's protocol, if applicable; and
- 5. Factors and signs of respiratory failure.

D. Record Keeping

Respiratory Protection Program records, including training records, fit tests and /or fit checks, shall be maintained in departmental files. Medical evaluations will be maintained by Human Resources.

V. **RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

The authority to issue or revise this Procedure is reserved to the County Manager. The County Manager may authorize exceptions to this procedure when deemed appropriate.



David C. Heath
County Manager
Lake County