

Safety Note # 129

SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPIRATOR PROGRAM



Photograph courtesy ANR
Communication Services

Supervisors play an important role in the Respiratory Protection Program. California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8, Section 3204, requires supervisors to familiarize themselves with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control maybe exposed to. Supervisors are responsible for managing and maintaining the respiratory protection program at their workplace, including overseeing proper use and maintenance of respirators, initiating action when conditions change, establishing when and where respiratory protection is required, and providing respirators and replacement parts to employees.

ANR EH&S Responsibilities

- The ANR EH&S Manager is the Program Administrator of the Respiratory Protection Program, and is responsible for the implementation of, and adherence to, the provisions outlined in current regulations (CCR Title 3, Section 6739 and CCR Title 8, Section 5144).
- Assist supervisors and employees to 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).
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the Respiratory Protection Program based upon information provided by supervisors at each location.
- Assist supervisors with accident and injury investigations resulting from work requiring respiratory protection.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Oversee the respiratory protection program at the workplace.
- Ensure employees are trained, medically evaluated to wear a respirator, and fit tested for type and size of respirator. **Note:** Supervisors must complete the supervisor section of each employee's Medical Evaluation Questionnaire form.
- Provide instruction to employees on respiratory hazard(s) for the task, including providing MSDS, pesticide labels, and any other information needed.
- Ensure a stock of replaceable respirator parts including cartridges and filters are available. Only provide the same brands that employees have been fit tested for.
- Oversee proper use and maintenance of respirators including providing a means of cleaning and storing them. Ensure defective equipment is removed from service.
- Conduct or arrange for initial and annual respiratory protection training and fit testing for employees. ANR EH&S performs fit testing and training for ANR employees annually at each Research & Extension Center. If ANR employees cannot attend the regularly scheduled fit testing, contact EH&S for assistance.
- Assure employees only wear the brand and size of respirator they have been fit tested to wear. Employees who use multiple respirators must be fit tested for each different brand and size of respirator. **Do not cross brand any parts of the respirator.** Interchanging different brand parts violates Cal-OSHA regulations.
- Maintain record of training, medical evaluations, and fit test results.
- Assure the workplace IIPP includes means providing emergency services for employees wearing respiratory protection.

The [Respiratory Protection Program Guideline](#) has additional details about regulatory requirements for respirator use.