

TOOLBOX TALKS

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

Different atmospheric contaminants require different respirators. Choose the correct, National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH)-approved respirator for the contaminants in your area. And when necessary, use the appropriate cartridge for your respirator. Change cartridges periodically. Medical evaluations and training must also be provided.

SINGLE-STRAP DUST MASKS

- Not usually NIOSH-approved – NOT for hazardous atmospheres
- May be used to protect against pollen and other allergens

APPROVED FILTERING FACE PIECES

- Good for protection against dust, mists, welding fumes, etc.
- Do NOT use to protect against gases, vapors, asbestos or lead

HALF-FACE RESPIRATORS

- Used for most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes

FULL-FACE RESPIRATORS

- Superior to half-face respirators, also protect the face and eyes from irritants and contaminants
- Protects against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes

LOOSE-FITTING POWERED-AIR-PURIFYING RESPIRATORS (PAPR)

- A battery-powered fan pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout the helmet or hood for greater breathing comfort
- Fits most workers, even those with beards

SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)

- Used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient; the SCBA uses its own air tank

Discussion Date:

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.