

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT & RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe working environment for the employees of the Davie County by preventing injury or illness due to the absorption, inhalation, or physical contact with hazardous substances. The purpose of this document is to describe our compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Personal Protection Equipment.

INFORMATION SOURCES

The information in this document is from the Occupational Safety and Health Standards 29 CFR 1910.132-134 and The Industry Guide #25: A Guide to Personal Protective Equipment from NIOSH.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The County will provide each employee with personal safety equipment to protect the body from injuries and illnesses due to the absorption, inhalation, or physical contact. **Department Directors will select appropriate protection based on the tasks performed, conditions present, duration of use, and the hazards identified.**

The Department Director is responsible for ensuring that all employees are knowledgeable and compliant with these requirements. Employees are responsible for using personal protective equipment that is provided.

This policy addresses the following: Eye and Face Protection, Respiratory Protection, Occupational Head Protection, Occupational Foot Protection, Fall Protection, and Respiratory Protection procedures.

PROCEDURE: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Hazard Assessment and Equipment Selection

Each Department Director has conducted an assessment of the work performed and the work place to determine the need for personal protective equipment. PPE's were selected and employees are trained in their use.

Eye and Face Protection

Eye and face protection will be made available to protect employees from the dangers of flying objects, glare, liquids, or a combination of these hazards. Suitable protection devices will be reasonably comfortable, snug fitting, durable, and easily cleanable and capable of being disinfected. These protectors will be kept clean and in good working condition. Persons whose vision requires corrective lenses will be given safety goggles that may be worn over prescription glasses. Each protector will be marked with only the manufacturers identification and any limitations that the manufacturer suggests must be communicated to each employee All protectors will meet minimum OSHA standards.

Occupational Head Protection

Employees who are subject to falling and flying objects or limited electrical shock and burn will be provided with head protection. These helmets will meet minimum OSHA standards.

Occupational Foot Protection

Safety-toe footwear, either steel-toe shoes or foot guards, will be provided to employees who face the hazards of foot and toe injuries. The protective footwear will meet minimum OSHA standards.

Fall Protection

Safety lines and harnesses will be used when work areas are greater than 10 feet above ground. These must be used at both elevated water tanks.

Hand Protection

Hand protection (gloves) will be provided and used by employees when hands are exposed to hazards from exposure or absorption from harmful substances, severe cuts, lacerations, abrasions, punctures, chemical/thermal burns, and harmful temperature extremes. Directors will select appropriate hand protection based on the task(s) performed, conditions present, duration of use, and the hazards identified.

PROCEDURE: RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Respirators will be provided by the county when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employee. The respirators provided must be appropriate for the intended work. A Self-contained Breathing Apparatus is provided to the Fire Marshal. Employees shall use the provided respiratory protection by following instructions and training received. Persons will not be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators unless it has been determined by medical staff that they are able to perform the work and use the equipment.

Physical Exam

All employees who will be using a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus will have a pre-employment physical by a physician to determine if the employee may be assigned to work with respirator equipment. Respirator users will have their medical status checked annually by a physician. The physician will forward a letter of approval for respirator use to the Human Resources Department.

Inspections

Inspections of the SCBA will be done before and after each use and at least once a month if the equipment is only used for emergency purposes. A record is kept of the inspection dates and findings. A safety inspection will include a check for defects; tightness of connections; condition of the face piece, headbands, valves, connecting tube and air tanks. The rubber or elastic parts will be checked for pliability and signs of deterioration. The air and oxygen cylinders should be fully charged and the regulator and warning device will be checked to make sure they are working properly.

Hydrostatic testing of the air tanks will be done at least every five years on the steel tanks and the fiberglass-wrapped tanks. Results will be documented and maintained. There should be a flow test performed annually and documented by a certified company.

Cleaning

Routinely used SCBA will be cleaned and disinfected frequently to insure proper protection. Respirators for emergency use will be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Respirators will be cleaned with a diluted Clorox solution (1:10) maintaining disinfectant contact for at least 20 seconds, then thoroughly rinsed with water.

Repair and Storage

Replacement of parts or repairs will be done only by an experienced person or will be returned to the manufacturer for handling. No parts will be replaced or adjustments made other than those specified by the manufacturer. All repairs will be entered on the SCBA Inspection and Maintenance Checklist.

Respirators will be stored to protect against dust, sunlight, heat, extreme cold, excessive moisture and damaging chemicals. Emergency respirators will be quickly accessible and clearly marked. Routinely used respirators can be stored in plastic bags, but should not be placed in lockers or tool boxes unless in a carrying case. Respirators will be stored so the face piece and exhalation valve are in a normal position. Respirator straps will be at maximum length in storage.

Training

Training will provide an opportunity to:

1. handle the respirator;
2. have the respirator fitted properly;
3. test the face piece -to- face seal;
4. wear the respirator in normal air for a long familiarity period;
5. wear respirator in a test atmosphere.

Respirator wearers will receive fitting instructions including demonstrations and practice in how the respirator should be worn, how to adjust it, and how to determine if it fits properly. Some conditions that may prevent a good face seal are: growth of beard, sideburns, skull cap that projects under the face piece. Also the absence of one or both dentures can seriously affect the fit of a face piece. The face piece fit will be checked each time the wearer puts on the respirator.

Temple pieces on glasses can prevent a good face piece seal. When a worker must wear corrective lenses the face piece and lenses shall be fitted by a qualified individual to provide good vision, comfort and a gas-tight seal. Wearing of contact lenses in contaminated atmospheres with a respirator is not allowed.

Training records including the instructor, the content, and a roster of participants will be maintained in each department with respiratory protection.

EVALUATION OF PLAN

An inspection to evaluate the implementation of this plan will be conducted in each department annually. Results will be reported to the Safety Committee and to the Department Directors when an area for improvement is identified.

The Safety Committee will review inspection results for trends and issues and recommend actions to improve if needed.