

exercise



Respiratory Protection | *Respirator Maintenance, Cleaning, and Storage*

EXERCISE #2

Target Audience: Employees who use respirators

Exercise Objective: Evaluate understanding of respirator maintenance, cleaning, and storage

Instructions: Describe your procedures for maintenance, cleaning, and storage of respirators:

1. Maintenance

2. Cleaning

3. Storage

Bring respirators and discuss/review each of the above procedures. Bring a copy of your written Respiratory Protection Plan and review its basic elements.

Tip

Wearing poorly maintained or malfunctioning respirators may be more dangerous than not wearing a respirator at all.



RESPIRATOR PROTECTION GUIDANCE

1. Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures that the respirator remains as effective as when it was new.

Respirators should be inspected before and after each use.

The respirator inspection should include:

- A check of the tightness of the connections, headstraps, or head harness,
- A check of the facepiece, valves, connecting tube, canisters, *and*
- A check of the regulator and warning devices on SCBA for proper functioning, integrity, and good condition of air supply lines and hoses, correct operation and condition of all regulators, valves, or other air-flow regulators.

2. Cleaning

The manufacturer's instructions should be followed for cleaning and sanitizing respirators.

Atmosphere-supplying and emergency use respirators should be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

3. Storage

Store in a place that will protect it from harmful elements—dust, heat, scratches, etc.