RESPIRATOR CARE

Inspection

Respirators must be inspected before each use to ensure good operating condition. The face piece must be repaired or replaced if there are damaged or defective parts. The following inspection procedure is suggested:

1. Check face piece for cracks, tears and dirt. Be certain face piece, especially face-seal area, is not distorted.
2. Examine inhalation valves for signs of distortion, cracking or tearing.
3. Make sure that head straps are intact and have good elasticity.
4. Examine all plastic parts for signs of cracking or fatiguing. Make sure filter gaskets or seal areas are in good condition.
5. Remove exhalation valve cover and examine exhalation valve and valve seat for signs of dirt, distortion, cracking or tearing. Replace exhalation valve cover.
6. Inspect lens for any damage that may impair respirator performance or vision.
7. Examine filtration elements for physical condition. Be sure expiration dates printed on the filtration elements label have not passed. Be sure not more than one year has passed since filtration elements were put in service.
8. Repair/replace any deficiencies immediately or tag the respirator as “in need of repair” and remove from service. Contact manufacturer with respirator model number for replacements.

Cleaning

Cleaning is recommended after each use. Cleaning is an opportunity to inspect and repair the respirator if necessary.

1. Remove cartridges and filters.
2. Clean face piece (excluding filters and cartridges) by immersing in a solution of warm water (not above 120º F) and mild detergent, and scrub with soft brush or cloth until clean. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils. Do not clean with solvents. Pay close attention to seal areas.
3. Rinse in fresh water and air dry in uncontaminated atmosphere.
4. Store the cleaned respirator in a plastic bag and away from contamination. Store the respirator out of sunlight and extreme temperatures. Do not keep the respirator in the back of the truck year-round.