

## Advisory Information for Persons Who Voluntarily Use Respirators

[To be given to persons voluntarily wearing respirators, including filtering facepieces]

Respirators protect against airborne hazards when properly selected and used. Respirator usage that is required by WA DOSH or your employer is not voluntary use. WISHA recommends voluntary use of respirators when exposure to substances is below WISHA permissible exposure limits (PELs) because respirators offer an additional level of comfort and protection.

If you choose to voluntarily use a respirator (whether it is provided by you or the University), be aware that **respirators can create hazards for you**, the user. You can avoid these hazards if you know how to use your respirator properly **and** how to keep it clean. Take these steps:

- Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer about use, maintenance (cleaning and care), and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- Choose respirators that have been certified for use to protect against the substance of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certifies respirators. If a respirator is not certified by NIOSH, you have no guarantee that it meets minimum design and performance standards for workplace use.
  - A NIOSH approval label will appear on or in the respirator packaging. It will tell you what protection the respirator provides.
- Keep track of your respirator so you do not mistakenly use someone else's.
- Do **not** wear your respirator into:
  - Atmospheres containing hazards that your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against solvent vapor, smoke, or oxygen deficiency.
  - Situations where respirator use is required.
- Contact Environmental Health & Safety if you have any questions about respirator use.

I, hereby, as an employee, student, or volunteer at Eastern Washington University acknowledge the risks and benefits of voluntarily using a filtering facepiece respirator. Under no circumstances, am I forced or coerced into the use of a respirator. A respirator is not required for any part of my job or task.

I am using a: \_\_\_\_\_ paper disposable type \_\_\_\_\_ ½ Face \_\_\_\_\_ Full Face \_\_\_\_\_ other

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please keep a copy of this document and forward a copy to Environmental Health & Safety, MAR 002.**