

# Respirator Protection

Respirator protection must be worn whenever you are working in a hazardous atmosphere. The appropriate respirator will depend on the contaminant(s) that you could be exposed to and the protection factor required.

Required respirators must be NIOSH-approved and medical evaluation and training must be provided before use.

**Single-strap dust masks** are usually not NIOSH-approved. They must not be used to protect from hazardous atmospheres. However, they may be useful in providing comfort from pollen or other allergens.

**Approved filtering face pieces** (dust masks) can be used for dust, mists, welding fumes, etc. They do not provide protection from gases or vapors. **DO NOT USE FOR ASBESTOS OR LEAD**; instead, select from the respirators below.

**Half-face respirators** can be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.

**Full-face respirators** are more protective than half-face respirators. They can also be used for protection against most vapors, acid gases, dust or welding fumes. The face-shield protects face and eyes from irritants and contaminants. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.

**Loose-fitting powered-air-purifying respirators** (PAPR) offer breathing comfort from a battery-powered fan which pulls air through filters and circulates air throughout helmet/hood. They can be worn by most workers who have beards. Cartridges/filters must match contaminant(s) and be changed periodically.

**A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus** (SCBA) is used for entry and escape from atmospheres that are considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) or oxygen deficient. They use their own air tank.