



The National Park Service EnviroFact Sheet

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Respiratory Protection (SY-4)

DRAFT

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Respirators are used for prevention of occupational diseases caused by exposure to air contaminated with harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors, including pesticides.

At parks, operations that may require respirator use include:

- Spray painting;
- Welding and grinding;
- Cleaning;
- Wood and metal working; and
- Pesticide application.

Airborne hazards should be controlled, to the extent possible, through elimination or substitution of the hazard, engineering controls that contain the hazard, or work practices that avoid employee exposure to the hazard. Respirators should be used when control methods are not feasible, or in emergencies.

FOR MORE INFO...

"Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Revised Respiratory Protection Standard":
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/secgrev-current.pdf>

OSHA Respiratory Protection Advisor web page:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory/index.html>

OSHA website:
Information on OSHA organization and programs:
<http://www.osha.gov/>

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Under the Respiratory Protection Standard at 29 CFR 1910.134, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to develop and implement a written respiratory protection program (RPP) with required worksite-specific procedures and elements for required respirator use.

RESPIRATOR USE

Parks should supply employees with respirators when all preferred methods of protecting them from breathing contaminated air have been determined to be insufficient to reduce the contamination to non-hazardous levels. The preferred methods include:

- Engineering controls such as ventilation;
- Substituting non-hazardous materials for the materials that pose respiratory hazards; and
- Administrative controls such as scheduling major maintenance for weekends or times when few workers are present.



The potential for emergencies should be taken into account when making this determination.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

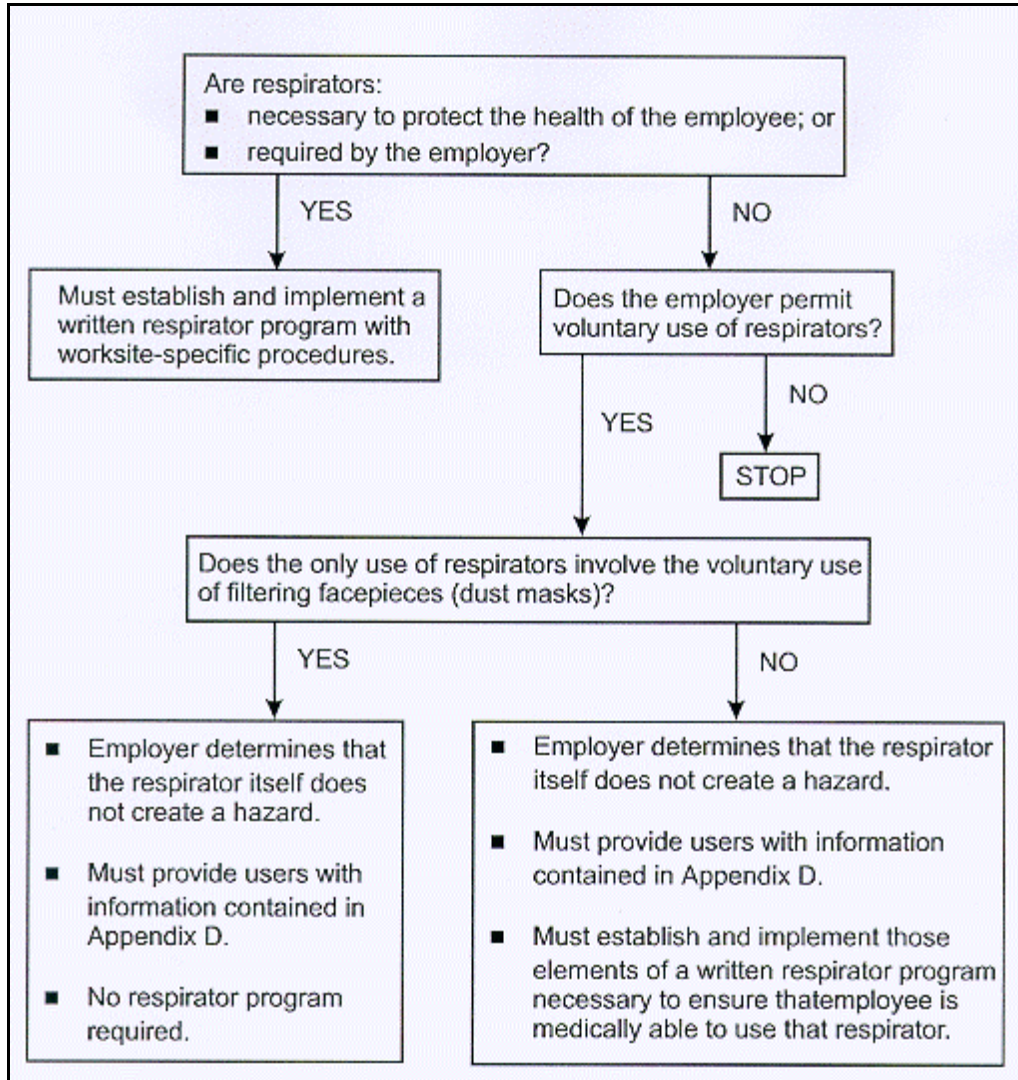
Those parks that have operations that require the use of respirators to protect employees and those parks where respirator use is voluntary for certain tasks must develop a written RPP. The elements to be included in a park's RPP vary depending on whether respirator use is mandatory or voluntary, as outlined below:

- If employees are required to wear respirators (including dust masks) because engineering controls or other work practices cannot be used to eliminate a respiratory hazard, then **all ten elements** listed in Table 1 are required.
- If employees voluntarily wear respirators (other than dust masks), then only **elements 1, 3, 6, and 10** listed in Table 1 are required. In addition, the park must convey the information in Appendix D of 29 CFR 1910.134, "Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard," to voluntary respirator users.
- If employees voluntarily wear dust masks, then an RPP is not required. However, the park must still convey the information contained in Appendix D of 29 CFR 1910.134 to its employees.

Table 1 - Written Respiratory Protection Program Elements	
1	Designation of a qualified program administrator.
2	Procedures for assessing hazards and selecting respirators.
3	Medical evaluations of employees required to wear respirators.
4	Fit-testing procedures for tight fitting respirators.
5	Procedures for proper respirator use.
6	Procedures and schedules for cleaning, storing, repairing, discarding, and otherwise maintaining respirators.
7	Procedures to ensure adequate air supply for atmosphere-supplying respirators.
8	Training for employees on respiratory hazards to which they are potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations. Training for employees on how to properly use and maintain respirators.
9	Procedures for regularly evaluating the effectiveness of the respiratory protection program.
10	Record keeping.

Respirator-User Requirements Flowchart

Following is a flowchart developed by OSHA to assist employers in determining compliance with the Respiratory Protection Standard.



From OSHA's "Major Requirements of OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134"
http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/respiratory_advisor/oshfiles/require.html