

UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest November 2017

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This Month's Safety Reminder – Respiratory Protection Program

Voluntary Use of a Respirator

What is 'voluntary use of a respirator'?



your campus permits you to wear a respirator where it is not required, it is considered voluntary respirator use.

Answer: Most workers on campus who wear respirators use them because they are required to protect them from airborne hazards. However, there are some situations where you may want to wear a respirator even though respirator use is not required by your campus or an OSHA standard. For example, you might request to wear a respirator to avoid exposure to an airborne hazard, even if the amount of the hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. Another example where you might want to voluntarily use a respirator would be to reduce exposure and increase comfort when working in a non-hazardous but dusty situation; for example, sweeping a shop floor. If

If I voluntarily use a respirator (and I'm not required to do so):

Am I required to attend training?

Answer: Yes, you must receive some training. The OSHA standard requires that employees receive the basic advisory information to employees who voluntarily use respirators that are not required by OSHA standards or the employer. [Appendix D \(of the OSHA standard\)](#) is a mandatory appendix may be used or alternatively, the employer may develop material that is equivalent in content to this appendix.

Am I required to have a medical exam?

Answer: If your only use if a respirator involves the voluntary use of a filtering facepiece (dust mask) then you are not required to have a medical exam. But if you use any other type of respirator, then you are required to follow the written respirator program elements that ensure that you are medically able to use that respirator.

Additional Information:

- To review the OSHA Respiratory Protection Voluntary Use Requirements, you may go to the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management Policy page at <http://sem.umaine.edu/policies-guides-and-reports/> or contact your campus safety point of contact.
- If you have any further questions or need assistance with your Respiratory Protection Program or training, please don't hesitate to contact the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management department at 581-4055, or email us at sem@maine.edu.



OSHA FY 2017 Top Ten

The following is a list of the top 10 most frequently cited standards following inspections of worksites by federal OSHA for FY 2017 (which ended on September 30). OSHA publishes this list to alert employers about these commonly cited standards so they can take steps to find and fix recognized hazards addressed in these and other standards to help prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

1. Fall Protection, 1926.501
2. Hazard Communication, 1910.1200
3. Scaffolding, 1926.451
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout, 1910.147
6. Ladders, 1926.1053
7. Powered Industrial Trucks, 1910.178
8. Machine Guarding, 1910.212
9. Fall Protection -- Training Requirements, 1926.503
10. Electrical Wiring Methods, 1910.305

What Were They Thinking?

Not a UMS campus work-area image(s)



