

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

VOLUNTARY USE OF RESPIRATORS

For Park District employees who opt to voluntarily use respirators:

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Sometimes, workers opt to wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limit set by DOSH standards. To provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers, voluntary respirator use when exposures are below the exposure limit is understandable and is not discouraged by the Park District.

However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker.

If you as an employee opt to voluntarily use a respirator, regardless of whether it is provided by the Park District or whether you provide your own, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard. You should do the following:

- Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (NIOSH) certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
- Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.

Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

I have read the above information and to avoid possible exposure hazards am opting to voluntarily use a respirator even when exposure hazards are below the limit requiring their mandatory use.

Employee Name (Print)

Department

Employee Signature

Date