This document is to be used to address the voluntary use of "dust masks" used for nuisance particles only.

OSHA 29 CFR §1910.134, APPENDIX D

VOLUNTARY USE OF DUST MASKS

Oregon OSHA's respiratory protection program allows the use of Dust Masks as good practice on a voluntary basis. ODFW employees have the option to use Dust Masks whenever they feel a situation or task may be dusty or wish to avoid conditions such as pollen exposure when cutting lawns, using leaf blowers, changing filters in HVAC systems etc. None of these exposures would normally exceed recommended exposure limits but the use of a dust mask may be considered good practice to avoid unwanted particulate exposures or employee discomfort.

Oregon OSHA rules require that each employer allowing voluntary use of Dust Masks make it clear to employees about the general safety issue in wearing these masks and to ensure that employees notify their supervisor if they believe the exposure may be hazardous. The information contained in this brochure is from the standard.

Disposable Particulate Mask

Disposable Particulate Mask with Valve

After reviewing this brochure the employee should detach and sign this form and the supervisor should maintain a copy in the employee's training file.
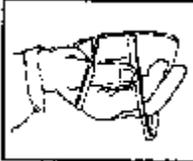
Training Date: _____ **Supervisor:** _____

Trainer: _____

I have received and understand instruction in ODFW's policy for the voluntary use of dust masks pursuant to OSHA regulation **29 CFR §1910.134 Appendix D**

Print Name _____**Sign Name** _____

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INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES USING RESPIRATORS WHEN NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE STANDARD	How to fit your dust/mist mask
Dust masks are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Dust mask use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a dust mask is used improperly or not kept clean, the dust mask itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear dust masks to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your supervisor provides dust masks for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the mask itself does not present a hazard.	1. Hold respirator in hand with molded nose contour (narrow end) at fingertips, allowing head straps to fall below hand.
You should do the following:	2. Place respirator under chin with molded nose contour (narrow end) up
1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the dust masks limitations.	
2. Choose a dust mask certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies dust masks. A label or statement of certification should appear on the dust mask or the packaging. It will tell you what the mask is designed for and how much it will protect you.	3. Pull shorter bottom strap over head, below ears, to around neck. Raise longer top strap to top back of head. Adjust respirator for comfortable fit.
3. Do not wear your dust mask into atmospheres containing contaminants for which it is not designed to protect against. For example, a dust mask designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.	4. To check fit, cup both hands over respirator and exhale deeply. If air leaks at respirator edges, adjust straps back along the sides of the head.
4. Keep track of your dust mask so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's.	
5. Discard and replace disposable masks when they become soiled, damp or in any way contaminated.	