

Appendix F – ODFW Wildfire Smoke Guidance for the Use of Filtering Facepiece Respirators to Address Wildfire Smoke

This appendix applies when filtering facepiece respirators (N95, N99, N100, P95, P99, R95) approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are used by workers for protection exclusively for wildfire smoke exposure when workplace ambient air concentrations of PM_{2.5} is at or above Air Quality Index (AQI) 101 and below AQI 501.

Filtering facepiece respirators are disposable, negative-pressure, air purifying respirators where an integral part of the facepiece or the entire facepiece is made of air contaminant filtering material. This appendix does not apply to other types of respirators, including but not limited to elastomeric tight-fitting respirators, nor does it apply to situations where workers use filtering facepiece respirators for protection against air contaminants other than PM_{2.5} from wildfire smoke.

ODFW Wildfire Smoke filtering facepiece respiratory protection program includes the following requirements when workplace ambient air concentrations of PM_{2.5} is at or above AQI 101 and below AQI 250 for voluntary use, and at or above AQI 251 and below 501 for required use:

- (A) Employee training. Managers must ensure that employees wearing filtering facepiece respirators are trained in the proper use of the respirator, including putting them on and removing them, any limitations on their use, how to care for the respirator, and the ability to demonstrate a seal check as described in (B) below, or in Attachment C of ODFW Policy HR_480_15. Training is available to ODFW employees in Workday Learning – ODFW Wildfire Smoke Training.
- (B) Filtering facepiece respirator user seal check. Each employee who uses a filtering facepiece respirator must perform a user seal check to ensure that the respirator is properly sealed to the face is achieved each time the respirator is put on. Either the positive or negative pressure checks listed below, or in Attachment C of ODFW Policy HR_480_15 or the respirator manufacturer's recommended user seal check method must be used.
 1. Instructions for positive pressure user seal check. Once you have properly donned the respirator, place your hands over the facepiece, covering as much surface area as possible. Exhale gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered satisfactory if a slight positive pressure is being built up inside the facepiece without any evidence of outward leakage of air at the seal. Examples of evidence that it is leaking could be the feeling of air movement on your face along the seal of the facepiece, fogging of your glasses, or a lack of pressure being built up inside the facepiece. If the particulate respirator has an exhalation valve, then performing a positive pressure check may not be possible. In such cases, a negative pressure check must be performed.
 2. Instructions for negative pressure user seal check. Negative pressure seal checks are typically conducted on particulate respirators that have exhalation valves. To conduct a negative pressure user seal check, cover the filter surface with your hands as much as possible and then inhale. The facepiece should collapse on your face and you should not feel air passing between your face and the facepiece.
 3. Correcting problems discovered during the seal check. In the case of either type of seal check (positive or negative), if air leaks around the nose, use both hands to readjust the nosepiece by placing your fingertips at the top of the metal nose clip. Slide your fingertips down both sides of the metal strip to more efficiently mold the nose area to the shape of your nose. Readjust the straps along the sides of your head until a proper seal is achieved.