

Respirator Protection Program

1025.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide Citrus Heights Police Department Personnel with a respiratory protection plan for general duty officers whose assignments might expose them to hazardous materials or response to the release of hazardous materials. This plan sets the minimum standards to comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5144, as it pertains to the use of air-purifying respirators (APRs) and powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). It does not prevent Citrus Heights Police Department from electing to be more restrictive in the designated use and fit testing of any specific equipment.

1025.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Citrus Heights Police Department to establish procedures and supply equipment designed to reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory hazardous conditions to officers during the performance of their duties. The establishment of this program complies with Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Regulations.

1025.3 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This program covers equipment selection, medical screening, fit testing, training, use and maintenance of respirators to be used by the following types of officers:

- (a) Officers who are issued respirators to be used for escape from hazardous atmospheres.
- (b) Officers who are issued respirators to be used while maintaining perimeters at hazardous material incidents. These are the officers who will be stationed in the support (cold or green) zone, where contaminants are not expected to exceed levels deemed safe for unprotected persons, as determined by the incident commander.
- (c) Officers who are issued respirators for use in maintaining the perimeter at crowd control incidents where chemical agents (e.g., CS or CN tear gas) are used.
- (d) Officers who are issued respirators to prevent exposure to tuberculosis and other serious airborne respiratory infections due to sustained contact with, or transport of, persons who are suspected of carrying an active infection with a serious airborne respiratory disease (such as tuberculosis).
- (e) Officers who, in exigent or emergency situations, are required to enter an area where CS, CN, smoke, or other tearing agents have been expelled.

Note: In these situations the incident commander, or officer in charge, shall ensure that the levels of contamination do not exceed the tearing agent manufacturer's recommendation of safe operation, or the NIOSH maximum concentration for use (MUC), prior to entry. As of 10/1/03, the MUC for CN is 15mg/M3 and the MUC for CS is mg/M3.

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1025.3.1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- (a) Respiratory Program Administrator"A designated Patrol Lieutenant is responsible for overseeing the respiratory protection program.
- (b) Other Responsible Individuals"The Program Administrator may assign responsibility and accountability to employees or supervisors for each phase of this program.
- (c) The Program Administrator shall be knowledgeable about the requirements of Section 5144 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations and all elements of the respiratory protection program. The Administrator will be responsible for assuring implementation of all elements of this program.
- (d) The Program Administrator is responsible for ensuring that all general duty personnel designated to use respirators are included in this program, and that the program is implemented in a consistent manner throughout the agency.

1025.3.2 EQUIPMENT SELECTION AND WORKPLACE FACTORS

Respirator Selection: The Citrus Heights Police Department will issue a MSA Millennium Face Mask with a CBRN screw on filter. Face masks and canisters will be provided to officers. Officer are not authorized to use a personal respirator or canisters, only that which is provided by the department.

- (a) Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR's): Officers will be issued Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) when the physician or other licensed health care professional recommends the use of a PAPR for medical reasons, of if the workplace and user factors require it.
- (b) All respiratory protective equipment shall be approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for the environment in which it is going to be used. The following definitions apply to equipment that will be issued to officers under this program.
- (c) Air-purifying respirator (APR) means a respirator that works by removing gas, vapor, or particulate, or combinations of gas, vapor, and/or particulate from the air through the use of filters, cartridges, or canisters that have been tested and approved for use in specific types of contaminated atmospheres by NIOSH. This respirator does not supply oxygen and therefore cannot be used to enter an atmosphere that is oxygen deficient.
- (d) Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) means air-purifying respirator that uses a blower to force ambient air through air-purifying elements to the respirator face piece or hood.
- (e) Officers who are covered in this program will be issued Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) under the following conditions:

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1. The physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) recommends the use of a PAPR for medical reasons.
2. The officer cannot be successfully fit-tested for a tight-fitting face piece. These officers shall be issued a PAPR with a loose fitting hood or helmet.
3. The officer requests a PAPR.

Note: Cartridges, canisters and filters are approved for use against specific hazards where the concentration is known or can be reasonably estimated. Some combination organic vapor/particulate cartridges and canisters are approved for use against CS and CN tear gas.

NIOSH is currently in the process of testing air-purifying respirators for protection against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents including sarin (nerve agent), cyanide, phosgene, tear gas, and sulfur mustard (blister agents). When those respirators are approved, the notation CBRN will follow the NIOSH approval number, and equipment will bear the NIOSH CBRN Agent Approved label.

1025.3.3 RESPIRATOR USE

- (a) Face Piece Seal Protection: The use of respirators under controllable conditions that would compromise the face piece-to-face seal will not be permitted. Examples of these conditions include facial hair that interferes with the face piece seal or valve function, absence of normally worn dentures, facial deformities, or the use of jewelry or headgear that projects under the face piece seal. Fit testing cannot be conducted if any of these conditions exists. Additionally, corrective glasses or goggles, or other personal protective equipment, must be worn in such a way that they do not interfere with the seal of the face piece to the face.
- (b) Breakthrough: If an officer detects breakthrough, the member shall exit the area immediately, or as soon as safety conditions permit, remove the respirator, and perform decontamination procedures. Breakthrough shall be reported to the incident commander or officer in charge.
- (c) Change Schedule for Cartridge Filters: A cartridge replacement schedule is based on manufacturer breakthrough test data.
- (d) Cartridge Filter Replacement: Cartridge filters will be changed according to the manufacturer's specification, whenever the wearer detects an increase in breathing resistance, or after usage in a hazardous materials environment.
- (e) Entry: Respirators issued under the program shall not be used to enter any area that is designated as the exclusion ("hot" or "red") zone, or the containment reduction ("warm" or "yellow") zone of a hazardous materials incident. They also should not be used to enter any areas that are known or suspected to be oxygen deficient, or that contain concentrations of hazardous substances that are unknown or are immediately

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dangerous to life or health (IDLH). Respirator use shall not conflict with the agency's emergency response plan.

- (f) Continuous duty: For continuous duty in maintaining the perimeter of hazardous materials or crowd control incidents, approved gas masks and other air-purifying respirators shall be used. Respirators shall be selected that are approved for the contaminants that are believed to be present, and wearers shall not be located in atmospheres in which concentrations exceed the protection factor of the respirator. The program administrator or incident commander shall determine a cartridge change schedule.
- (g) TB and other infectious airborne diseases: Particulate respirators shall be used when and officer is in sustained contact (including transport in a closed vehicle) with a person who is suspected of carrying an active infection with a serious airborne respiratory disease (such as tuberculosis), and who cannot be masked. Used respirators shall be discarded in appropriate containers, in accordance with the department's infection control procedures.

Note: Some contaminants are detectable at levels that are below Cal/OSHA permissible exposure limits. Therefore detection of contaminants by a respirator user does not necessarily mean that officers are being exposed above the concentrations permitted under this program.

1025.3.4 MEDICAL EVALUATION

Officers who use respirators must be able to tolerate the physical and psychological stress imposed by respirator use. Officers will not be allowed to wear respirators until a physician or other licensed health care professional has determined that they are medically able to do so.

- (a) Personnel are considered medically qualified to use respiratory protective equipment after completing the POST Medical History Statement (POST 2-252) or its equivalent (Cal/OSHA medical Questionnaire) and successfully passing a physical examination that occurs as a condition of employment. The pre-employment physical must meet or exceed the standards described in the POST Medical Screening Manual for California Law Enforcement.
- (b) Medical evaluations are required for any officer when:
 1. An officer reports medical signs or symptoms that are related to the ability to use a respirator.
 2. A physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP), a supervisor, or the Program Administrator informs the agency that an officer needs to be re-evaluated.
 3. Observations made during the fit testing and program evaluation indicate a need for re-evaluation.

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4. A change occurs in the workplace conditions (e.g., physical work effect, protective clothing, temperature) that may result in a substantial increase in the physiological burden placed on an officer.
- (c) Physician or other licensed health care professionals written recommendations: They will provide the department with a written recommendation stating authorization to wear the respirator, or any limitations during the use of the respirator.

1025.3.5 FIT TESTING

Fit test procedures shall be in accordance with Appendix A of section 5144 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. Fit testing will be required for all officers who wear respirators with a tight-fitting face piece. Fit Testing will be performed:

- After a member has completed their medical evaluation and prior to being allowed to wear any respirator with a tight fitting face piece in the work environment.
 - At least annually thereafter.
 - Whenever a different respirator face piece is used.
 - When there are changes in the member's physical condition that could affect respiratory fit.
- (a) Before an officer is required to use any respirator with a tight-fitting face piece (APR/PAPR), the officer must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator to be used. Officers shall be provided with a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so that he/she may select an acceptable face piece.
 - (b) Fit tests shall be provided at the same time of initial assignment and at least annually there after. Additional fit tests shall be provided whenever the officer, employer, PLHCP, supervisor, or program administrator makes visual observations of changes in the officer's physical condition that could affect respirator fit. These conditions include, but are limited to, facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or an obvious change in body weight.
 - (c) The person who administers the fit test shall complete the fit test training. This training can be accomplished through a local fire agency, OSHA, or the manufacturer of the equipment. Documentation of all training must be maintained in the department program records. All personnel qualified to fit-test must keep up to date on their training.
 - (d) Prior to the fit test, the officer shall be shown the proper procedures for donning a respirator. The officer shall demonstrate donning the respirator, adjust the straps, and perform positive and negative pressure fit checks.
 - (e) Respirators with tight-fitting face pieces do not seal properly when facial hair comes between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face, or when it interferes

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with valve function. Therefore, any officer who has facial hair that interferes with sealing surfaces, or who cannot be successfully fit tested with a tight-fitting face piece respirator shall be issued a PAPR with a hood or helmet.

- (f) Officers who wear corrective glasses or other personal protective equipment must be sure that such equipment is worn in a manner that does not interfere with the face piece seal. The glasses or personal protective equipment that must be worn with the respirator shall be taken to the fit-test assessment and worn during the test.
- (g) Officers who are issued tight-fitting face piece gas/vapor air purifying respirators (gas masks) shall be provided with either a qualitative (employee response to test agent) or quantitative (numerical measurement of leakage) method fit test. Citrus Heights Police Department must indicate in their department program records which test was utilized and the results of the tests.
- (h) An escape hood is not a tight-fitting face piece, and need not be fit tested. Officers who are issued escape hoods shall practice donning and removing the hood during training.

1025.4 TRAINING

The Administrative/Training Sergeant will assign a personnel member who will provide training to respirator users prior to fit testing. Cal/OSHA requires agencies to conduct training for all personnel designated to use respirators.

- (a) The training shall include at least the following:
 1. The specific circumstances under which respirators are to be used, including illustrative scenarios that identify the proper use by general-duty officers.
 2. Why the respirator is necessary and how proper fit, usage, or maintenance can ensure the protective effect of the respirator.
 3. What the respirators limitations and capabilities are in terms of protecting against chemical agents and other respiratory hazards.
 4. How to effectively use the respirators in emergency situations, including situations when the respirator malfunctions.
 5. How to inspect, put on, remove, use, and check the seals of the respirator.
 6. How to maintain and store the respirator. Officers who are issued PAPRs shall be instructed in procedures for charging and maintaining the batteries, and for checking the flow rate.
 7. How to recognize medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent the effective use of the respirators.
 8. How to decontaminate (or safely dispose of) a respirator that has been contaminated with chemical or hazardous biological materials.

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- (b) Training shall be provided at the time of initial assignment to respirator use, and at least annually thereafter.
- (c) Additional training shall be provided when there is a change in the type of respiratory protection used, or when inadequacies in the officer's knowledge or use of the respirator indicate that he/she has not retained the requisite understanding or skill.
- (d) This training can be accomplished by in-house instruction, or by viewing the POST video on respiratory protective equipment in combination with instruction. The training should be conducted prior to the fit-test procedures.

1025.5 MAINTENANCE AND CARE

The Program Administrator will conduct an annual assessment of the agency's respiratory program to ensure that it is properly implemented.

- (a) Cleaning and Disinfecting
 1. Each respirator user shall be provided with a respirator that is clean, sanitary, and in good working order. The agency will ensure that respirators are cleaned and disinfected at the following intervals:
 - (a) Respirators issued for the exclusive use of an officer shall be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.
 - (b) Respirators issued to more than one officer shall be cleaned and disinfected before being worn by other persons.
 - (c) Respirators maintained for emergency use shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
 - (d) Respirators used in fit testing and training shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use (before being used by another person).
 - (e) Respirators that have been contaminated with certain chemical, biological, or radioactive (CBRN) agents require special decontamination procedures to reduce the likelihood of secondary exposures to the user or assisting personnel. The HAZMAT incident commander or officer in charge will inform users of any special decontamination procedures that are required.
- (b) Storage
 - (a) All respirators shall be stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals. They shall be packed or stored to prevent deformation of the face piece and exhalation valve.
 - (b) To protect the integrity of the equipment, we must follow the manufacturer's recommendation for storage. We must also maintain records of where all

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equipment is stored. We should take into consideration the need for charging PAPR batteries when they are stored or not in use.

- (c) Inspection
 - (a) Single-use particulate respirators shall be inspected prior to use. All other respirators shall be inspected at least monthly and prior to each use.
 - (b) Inspections should include a check of: . Respirator function, tightness of connections, condition of the various parts including, but not limited to. The face piece, head straps, valves, and cartridges, canisters or filters. . All rubber or plastic parts for pliability and signs of deterioration. . PAPR connecting tubes or hoses and batteries.
 - (c) Each inspection shall include donning the respirator and performing positive and negative pressure fit-checks.
 - (d) An inspection log shall be kept with the respirator (except single use particulate respirators). This log shall be attached to the respirator carrying case and shall be completed by the officer's supervisor, noting the date of each monthly inspection. This log will be replaced during the annual fit test.
- (d) Repairs
 - (a) Any defective respirators shall be removed from service, and shall be adjusted, repaired or discarded as appropriate. Written policies shall indicate where defective equipment must be turned in, the person responsible for receiving it and how replacement equipment is to be issued.
 - (b) Only persons who have been trained to perform such operations shall make repairs or adjustments to respirators. All repairs shall be made according to the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications for the type and extent of repairs to be performed, using only the manufacturer's NIOSH-approved parts.

1025.6 PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Program Administrator will conduct a periodic review of the agency's program to ensure the agency adheres to all subsections of this program. This review will include at a minimum:

- (a) Respirator fit
- (b) Appropriate respirator selection
- (c) Proper use of respirators
- (d) Proper inspection and maintenance procedures

The officer's immediate supervisor is responsible to periodically monitor member use of the respirators to ensure that they are being used and worn properly.

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1025.7 RECORD KEEPING

The Program Administrator is responsible for ensuring that proper records are kept for this program. This includes:

- (a) Personnel medical records shall be retained and made available in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Section 3204, Title 8, for a minimum, of thirty (30) years after an employee's separation or termination.
 - 1. The Program Administrator will retain a copy of the physician or other licensed health care professional's written recommendation for each employee authorizing use of the respirator. These records must be maintained for 1 year, or until the next medical evaluation.
 - 2. Completed medical questionnaires, results of relevant medical tests and personnel medical records shall be retained by the City's physician or other licensed health care professional and are confidential.
- (b) Documentation of training, inspection and maintenance. The Program Administrator is responsible for the retention of member training records that include the names of officers trained and the dates when training was conducted. These records will be kept in the officer's training file.
- (c) Documentation of fit testing, including:
 - 1. Type of test (qualitative or quantitative)
 - 2. Name or ID of employee
 - 3. Make, model, style and size of respirator tested
 - 4. Date of test results of the fit test