

Proper fit of respirators

When working with hazards that require the use of respiratory protection, it is important to ensure a proper fit. A non-powered half-mask or full-mask respirator should form a tight seal with your face. Even the smallest opening is large enough for vapours or particulates to sneak through. To ensure that you are protected, keep the following points in mind:

- Equipment must be properly fit-tested
- You must conduct a fit-check before each use
- Your respirator must be properly cleaned and stored
- You must be clean shaven around seal points
- Use an appropriate respirator filter/cartridge if necessary

What if I can't make a tight seal?

If a tight seal is not possible (e.g., if you cannot be clean shaven or if you have a deep scar), a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) can be used with a hood. The hood will be loose-fitting and adequate for workers with beards.

Remember: these are air-purifying types of respirators. In areas with an insufficient level of oxygen, an **air-supplying** respirator must be used. Always be aware of the type of work you are doing and the type of environment that you are in.

For more information refer to the *Breathe Safer* publication on www.worksafebc.com.



Acceptable



Not acceptable—beard will prevent proper seal



Powered air-purifying respirator

Project: _____ Address: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number on shift: _____ Number attending: _____

Other safety issues or suggestions made by attendees:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
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13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____ Supervisor: _____

(signature)

(signature)



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
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