FILTERING FACE PIECE RESPIRATORS (DUST MASKS)

Many UCR labs and work areas use dust masks. EH&S wants to make sure that the user of a dust mask knows the limitations of the protection. The Principal Investigators (PI) and Supervisors should know why their employees are using dust masks and determine if the use is effective or creating a hazard. Below are some points to consider when using dust masks.

**Use Dust Masks the Right Way!**
- Not everyone can wear a respirator and there is no respirator for all conditions. Contact EH&S for respirator evaluation. We will help you select the right respirator.
- Dust mask can be used for particles only. There are three types of dust masks
  - N95/R95/P95 masks filter out 95% of dust particles
  - N99/R99/P99 masks filter out 99% of dust particles
  - N100/R100/P100 masks filter out 99.7% of dust
- Dust masks comes in variety of style, size and brand, you shall only select NIOSH approved dust masks that properly fit you.
- Read the manufacturer’s instructions before use, inspect the dust mask before every use
- Donning and doffing dust masks according to manufacturer’s instruction, see Donning (Putting on) and Doffing (Taking off) and User Seal Checks Video for more information.
- Conduct a user seal test each time when you don a dust mask. Dust mask cannot protect you unless it can maintain a proper seal on your face.
- Replace the dust mask when it is soiled, damaged, or breathing becomes difficult.
- Dispose dust mask at least daily.
- Store dust mask in an air-tight bag to keep it clean and dry for future use
- The voluntary use of dust masks at UCR is allowed only in atmospheres that are not hazardous. If you use a dust mask, and it is not required by Cal/OSHA, your PI or Supervisor should provide you with the information in T8 CCR, Section 5144, Appendix D.

**Improper Use of Dust Masks**
- Dust masks do not protect against chemical gases and vapors, and is intend for low hazard levels.
- Do not use a dust mask if the particle concentration is more than 10 times above the permissible exposure level.
- Do not use dust mask if you cannot maintain a good seal.
- Do not share your dust mask with other employees
- Do not use a dust mask if the oxygen level is below 19.5%
- Do not use a dust mask for protection when the atmosphere is unknown or Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health.

Visit [www.ehs.ucr.edu](http://www.ehs.ucr.edu) for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.