



## Respirator responsibilities—supervisors

If your workplace contains dangerous air contaminants such as gases and vapours, dusts, fibres, mists, fumes, bacteria, spores, and pollen, you and the workers you supervise may require respiratory protection. As a supervisor, you play a crucial role in the health and safety of all workers, including making sure that workers always wear their respirators when they are exposed to breathing hazards.

### What are your responsibilities?

You must ensure that workers:

- Are aware of breathing hazards
- Have respirators available when needed
- Participate in the selection and fit testing of their respirators
- Perform seal checks for proper fit
- Wear respirators every time they are needed
- Properly clean, inspect, maintain, and store their respirators
- Get a replacement for any damaged respirator or equipment part
- Replace disposable respirators when damaged or clogged
- Report difficulties during respirator use, such as discomfort, skin irritation, or breakthrough of contaminants causing breathing difficulty.

If you notice any issues, you must make the worker and/or employer aware of them.



*Make sure workers under your supervision wear the right respirator for the job, and that the respirator is properly fitted and worn.*

**Be a role model—wear your respirator!**

### What else can you do to ensure respiratory protection for the workers you supervise?

Because of your knowledge of the workplace, you can also play an important role in:

- Identifying breathing hazards and making suggestions as to how they can be eliminated
- Being alert to changes in the workplace that could require a change in the type of respiratory protection measures being used

For more information see the WorkSafeBC publication *Breathe Safer*.