

**Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 Information for Voluntary Use of Dust Mask**

**VOLUNTARY USE OF DUST MASKS**



Tooele City allows the use of disposable dust masks on a voluntary basis and in some circumstances, it is highly encouraged. Dust masks are an effective method of protection against nuisance particulates when properly selected and properly worn. However, if a dust mask is used improperly or not kept clean, the dust mask can become a hazard to the worker.

Sometimes employees may wear disposable dust masks to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. Tooele City employees may use disposable dust masks whenever they feel a situation or task may be dusty or wish to avoid conditions such as pollen exposure when cutting lawns, using leaf blowers, changing filters in HVAC systems, and similar duties. None of these exposures would normally exceed recommended exposure limits but the use of a dust mask may be considered a good practice to avoid unwanted particulate exposures or employee discomfort.

If your supervisor provides dust masks for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the mask itself doesn't present a hazard for you.

You should do the following:

- Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the dust mask's limitations.
- Choose a dust mask certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the US Department of Health and Human Services, certifies dust masks. A label or statement of certification should appear on the dust mask or the packaging. It will tell you what the dust mask is designed for and how much it will protect you.
- Do not wear your dust mask into atmospheres containing contaminants for which it is not designed to protect against. For example, a dust mask designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
- Keep track of your dust mask so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's.
- Discard and replace disposable masks when they become soiled, damp, or in any way contaminated.

Employee: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Retain a copy in supervisor training files.**

**Send original to HR for personnel file.**