



Title: Respirator Protection Program	
Effective Date: November 07, 2007	Page 1 of 5

A. Policy

The Anywhere, Illinois Police Department recognizes that officers may be called upon to respond to incidents involving nuclear, biological or chemical agents. Within the bounds of available resources, it is the policy of the Anywhere Police Department to establish the Respirator Protection Program in order to provide for the protection of officers in an incident involving nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. Pursuant to this policy, the Department shall make respirators available to every officer.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the process of issuing, training and use of protective respirators.

C. Definitions

Air Purifying Respirator (APR) - A respirator to be used in toxic environments where the breathable level of oxygen is known to be sufficient. Air-purifying respirators are designed to protect the wearer for short periods ONLY.

Escape -only Respirator - means a respirator intended to be used only for emergency exit.

Fit Test - A test to ensure that an issued respirator is the proper size for the wearer and that an air tight seal is achieved between their face and the respirator in order to determine a correct respirator size and fit.

Licensed Health Care Professional (LHCP) - includes medical doctor, registered nurse, paramedic, or EMT.

NBC – Nuclear, Biological or Chemical

N95 Mask - a fluid resistant, disposable respirator with a filter efficiency level of 95% or greater against particulate aerosols free of oil when tested against a 0.3 micron particle.

Qualitative fit test (QLFT)- a pass/fail test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual’s response to a test agent.

Quantitative fit test (QNFT)- an assessment of respirator fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

Respirator Administrator – Manager responsible for overseeing the respirator program

Special Use - any use of the APR that is **NOT** “escape only” (i.e., SWAT, riot control with chemical agents, etc.) or mandatory use of the N95.

C. Procedure

1. Responsibility

Chief of Police Signature:

- a) The Chief of Police is responsible to ensure that:
 - The Respirator Protection Program is instituted and enforced
 - an operational and appropriate respirator and canister is available for every officer
 - each officer has the appropriate training and testing pursuant to this directive
 - the agency is in full compliance with pertinent Illinois Department of Labor and OSHA regulations

- b) The Respirator Administrator is responsible for:
 - Being familiar with this policy and have the appropriate training and understanding of the use of the respirators.
 - Developing a training and testing regimen which meets the appropriate State and Federal requirements and ensuring that it is followed.
 - Maintaining medical (if necessary), training, equipment and testing records.

- c) Officers are responsible for ensuring that:
 - They have a full understanding of the use of the respirators and the requisite skills necessary to use them when necessary.
 - They have a full understanding of this policy and its requirements for APR use.
 - The equipment is kept in good working order by following all maintenance procedures.

2. Selection of Equipment

- a) Respirators, and supporting equipment, should be NIOSH-approved when possible.

- b) The Department has selected the AVON FM-12 air-purifying respirator and the N95 mask. Additionally, the AVON DPF-12 NBC canister has been selected. Other supporting equipment such as carrying cases, lens inserts and other canisters may be selected by the Chief of Police.

3. Fit Testing

- a) At the time of initial issuance and thereafter on an annual basis, a respirator fit testing shall be used to determine the ability of each member to obtain a satisfactory fit with the issued APR and the N95 mask.

 - b) Fit testing will be conducted by a trained individual who can be from either the police or fire department.

 - c) Fit testing will be conducted using either a qualitative or quantitative method.

 - d) A written record of the fit testing will be completed and maintained by the Respirator Administrator.

 - e) Any facial hair, which may interfere with a clean seal between the user's face and the respirator's face-piece is prohibited.
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4. Use of the Respirator

a) Each sworn officer will be issued the following equipment:

1. One Avon FM-12 respirator
2. One NBC DPF12 filter canister
3. One carrier
4. N95 may be available for voluntary use

b) Use of prescription eyewear

1. Use of prescription eyeglasses is not allowed for use with an APR respirator.
2. Officers who wear prescription eyeglasses to correct their normal vision, will be provided with monacle inserts for the respirator that have been made to the individual's eyewear prescription by an optometrist of the department's choosing, at no cost to the individual. Officers who need monacle inserts for their respirators will make arrangements with the program administrator for production of the inserts to their prescription.

c) Substitution

Officers may not substitute any equipment or use, apply or affix any non-departmentally issued accessories or items to the APR's.

d) Limitations on Respirator Use

1. The Avon FM-12 respirator shall not be used for fire fighting or other oxygen deficient environments.
2. The APR is intended for use as a means of **emergency escape only** in an incident involving nuclear, biological, or chemical hazards. Since it is impossible to know when an incident may occur, where the respirator will be needed, it is imperative that this equipment is carried with the officer, in their vehicle, during their regular tour of duty.
3. The N95 may be available for voluntary use during an Avian Pandemic outbreak or other biological emergency.

e) Use of Respirators

1. Whenever an officer reasonably believes that an imminent threat of a nuclear, biological, or chemical nature exists he/she should put on the respirator along with the canister that was provided with it.
 2. Canisters are to remain in their sealed bag until needed. The normal shelf life of a canister in a sealed bag is 10 years. Once the canister has been removed from the sealed bag the shelf life is reduced to approximately 1 year.
 3. After putting the respirator on, the employee should ensure that it has a proper seal by performing a negative pressure test as demonstrated in training.
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4. If possible, employees should remove themselves from the area of the threat before taking off the respirator.
5. If the employee is unable to be removed from the threat area, it is imperative that the respirator remains intact and properly seals the face throughout the duration of the incident.
6. N95 masks may be used whenever the state or local health department has issued an alert that a pandemic flu outbreak or other biological emergency has occurred.

5. Maintenance and Inspection

a) Cleaning

1. Employees shall be responsible for cleaning the APR after each use and replacing the filters when necessary. Additionally, they are responsible for the issued APR's and supporting equipment and shall report any problems or maintenance issues to the Respirator Administrator as soon as possible.
2. Cleaning will be done according to the procedures set forth in the training documentation.

b) Disposal: Employees will be responsible for proper disposal of N95 masks after use.

6. Training

a) All personnel issued a Respirator shall be trained prior to its use.

b) Training shall cover the proper use of the respirators, including:

- Putting the respirator on
- Putting the canister on the respirator
- Taking off the respirator
- Storage of the respirator
- Proper care and cleaning
- The capabilities and limitations of the APR and the supporting equipment
- Proper disposal of disposable respirators.

c) Refresher training shall be conducted on an annual basis.

7. Special Use of the Respirator

If the Chief of Police deems necessary, the Respirator Protection Program may be expanded to include "special use" of the APR. Special use is any use of the APR that is **NOT** "escape only" (i.e., SWAT, riot control with chemical agents, etc.) or required use of the N95. This designation can be department wide or specific to certain assignments.

If such a designation is made the following will be necessary in addition to all other required training and record keeping outlined above:

- Designated employees must receive a medical evaluation by a Licensed Health Care Professional as required by OSHA/Illinois Department of Labor on an annual basis. Based on the recommendation of the LHCP a physical examination may also be required.
- The information related to the medical screening must also be kept by the Respirator Administrator.

8. Evaluation of Program

- a) The Respiratory Protection Program will be evaluated on an annual basis.
 - b) The purpose of the evaluation will be to determine the effectiveness of the program.
 - c) The Respirator Administrator will be responsible for conducting the evaluation and making any changes to the program based on feedback from the evaluation.
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