
Respirator Protection Program

704.1 POLICY

The Urbana 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 Urbana 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.

704.2 PURPOSE

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

704.3 DEFINITIONS

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

Escape-only Respirator - 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 [REDACTED]

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.

704.4 RESPONSIBILITY

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.

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- The agency is in full compliance with pertinent Illinois Department of Labor and OSHA regulations.

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 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.

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.

704.5 SELECTION OF EQUIPMENT

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

The Department will select an appropriate APR, cannister and N95 mask to be used by officers.

704.6 FIT TESTING

- 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.
- Fit testing will be conducted by a trained individual who can be from either the police or fire department.
- Fit testing will be conducted using either a qualitative or quantitative method.
- A written record of the fit testing will be completed and maintained by the Respirator Administrator.
- Any facial hair, which may interfere with a clean seal between the user's face and the respirator's face-piece, is prohibited.

704.7 USE OF THE RESPIRATOR

Each sworn officer will be issued the following equipment:

- One respirator
- One filter canister
- One carrier
- N95 may be available for voluntary use

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704.7.1 PRESCRIPTION EYEWEAR

- Use of prescription eyeglasses is not allowed for use with an APR respirator.
- 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.

704.7.2 SUBSTITUTION

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

704.7.3 LIMITATIONS ON RESPIRATOR USE

- The respirator shall not be used for fire fighting or other oxygen deficient environments.
- The APR is maintained in police storage and any supervisor can authorize its usage.
- The N95 may be available for use during an Avian Pandemic outbreak or other biological emergency.

704.7.4 PRECAUTIONS

- 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.
- Canisters are to remain in their sealed bag until needed.
- 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.
- If possible, employees should remove themselves from the area of the threat before taking off the respirator.
- 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.
- 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.

704.8 CLEANING

Employees shall be responsible for cleaning the APR after each use and replacing any used filters. 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.

704.9 TRAINING

- All personnel issued a Respirator shall be trained prior to its use.
- Training shall cover the proper use of the respirators, including:

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- 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
- Refresher training shall be conducted periodically.