



# Weekly Safety Tip

## Respiratory Protection Week

In recognition of the fact that millions of workers in occupations (such as healthcare, public safety, emergency response, construction, and mining) rely on respiratory protection to keep them safe on the job, NIOSH has a week-long observance to highlight the importance of respiratory protection in the workplace and provide resources to help you make educated decisions when selecting and wearing a respirator.

If you are exposed to respiratory hazards at work, it's best to apply the [hierarchy of controls](#), (see below).

The use of respiratory protection is an important "last line of defense" in the hierarchy of controls approach.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of NIOSH's Respiratory Protection Week, September 3 – 6, 2024.










SEPTEMBER 3–6, 2024



- The hierarchy of controls identifies a preferred order of actions to best control hazardous workplace exposures.
- Elimination, substitution, and engineering controls are more effective because they control exposures without significant human interaction.
- Administrative controls and personal protective equipment can also be effective at reducing workers' exposures to hazards.
- As seen in the HOC figure on the left, PPE is the last and least preferred control measure!

### Types of Respiratory Protection

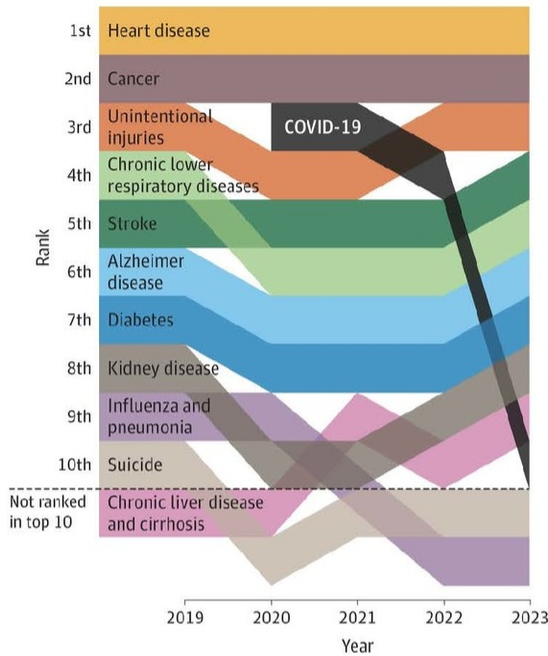
 <p><b>Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirators</b> are reusable and have replaceable cartridges or filters. They cover the nose and mouth and provide protection against gases, vapors, or particles when equipped with the appropriate cartridge or filter.</p>	 <p><b>Elastomeric Full Facepiece Respirators</b> are reusable and have replaceable canisters, cartridges, or filters. The facepiece covers the face and eyes, which offers eye protection.</p>	 <p><b>Filtering Facepiece Respirators</b> are disposable half facepiece respirators that filter out particles such as dusts, mists, and fumes. They do NOT provide protection against gases and vapors.</p>	 <p><b>Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)</b> have a battery-powered blower that pulls air through attached filters, canisters, or cartridges. They provide protection against gases, vapors, or particles, when equipped with the appropriate cartridge, canister, or filter. Loose-fitting PAPRs do not require fit testing and can be used with facial hair.</p>
 <p><b>Supplied-Air Respirators</b> are connected to a separate source that supplies clean compressed air through a hose. They can be lightweight and used while working for long hours in environments not immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH).</p>	 <p><b>Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)</b> are used for entry into or escape from environments considered to be IDLH. They contain their own breathing air supply and can be either open circuit or closed circuit.</p>	 <p><b>Combination Respirators</b> can be either a supplied-air/SCBA respirator or supplied-air/air-purifying respirator. The SCBA type has a self-contained air supply if primary airline fails and can be used in IDLH environments. The air-purifying type offers protection using both a supplied-air hose &amp; an air-purifying component and cannot be used for entry into IDLH environments.</p>	

# **Weekly Safety Share**



**Leading Causes of Death in the  
USA**

## Leading Causes of Death in the USA (2019-2023)



### Key Findings in latest Report

from

National Center for Health Statistics

on

*Leading Causes of Death in the US*

2019 to 2023

Share Source: JAMA

US mortality statistics are derived from death certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics National Vital Statistics System.

Trends in the ranking of leading causes of death remained relatively stable until the COVID-19. COVID-19 pandemic debuted as the third leading cause of death in 2020 and remained among the leading causes in subsequent years.

Provisional data from 2023 indicate a shift in the top causes of death, driven largely by a decrease in COVID-19 deaths.

### Mortality Data from the National Vital Statistics System

Cause-of-death data are based on the underlying cause of death, which is the disease or condition responsible for initiating the chain of events leading to death.

Leading causes are classified according to underlying cause and presented according the number of deaths among US residents.

Mortality statistics presented herein are provisional, based on the current flow of death certificate data from the states to National Center for Health Statistics.

Final mortality data will be available approximately 11 months after the end of the data year.

### Shifting Trends in Leading Causes of Death

The [Figure](#) (on the next page) presents leading causes of death over 5 years: 2019 to 2023.



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