

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) is to:

- Protect Florida Tech employees and students from identified inhalation exposure & respiratory hazards include but are not limited to harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors.
- Establish Florida Tech's written compliance as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

This Florida Tech Respirator Program contains guidelines for administering an effective respiratory protection program and provides the information, training, and equipment necessary for proper selection, use and maintenance of respirators. The Program is updated annually to address the changing needs of the University along with federal regulatory revisions. This document serves as a standard operating procedure (SOP) for faculty and staff who are required to wear a respirator during work & school assignments.

Engineering controls, such as ventilation and substitution of less toxic materials, are the first line of defense at Florida Tech; however, engineering controls may not be always feasible for some operations, or may not always completely control the identified hazards. In these situations, respirators and other protective equipment must be used.

In addition, some employees have expressed a desire to wear respirators during certain operations that do not require respiratory protection. As a general policy, University Safety Office will review each of these requests on a case-by-case basis. If the use of respiratory protection in a specific case will not jeopardize the health or safety of the worker(s), the department may provide or allow employees to provide their own respirators for voluntary use.