

Wildfire Smoke Protection Plan - Appendix E: Filtering Facepiece User Seal Checks

Each employee who is required to use a filtering facepiece respirator for protection against wildfire smoke in accordance with section IV.D.3 of this Plan must perform a user seal check to ensure that a sufficient face fit to maximize effectiveness each time the respirator is put on.

1. **Instructions for positive pressure user seal check.** Once you have properly donned the respirator, place your hands over the facepiece, covering as much surface area as possible. Exhale gently into the facepiece. The face fit is considered sufficient if a slight positive pressure is being built up inside the facepiece without feeling air passing between your face and the facepiece. If the particulate respirator has an exhalation valve, then performing a positive pressure check may not be possible. In such cases, a negative pressure check must be performed.
2. **Instructions for negative pressure user seal check.** Negative pressure seal checks are typically conducted on particulate respirators that have exhalation valves. Once you have properly donned the respirator, cover the filter surface with your hands as much as possible and then inhale gently. The face fit is considered sufficient if the facepiece slightly collapses towards your face without feeling air passing between your face and the facepiece.
3. **Correcting problems discovered during the seal check:** In the case of either type of seal check (positive or negative), if air leaks around the nose, use both hands to readjust the nosepiece by placing your fingertips at the top of the metal nose clip. Slide your fingertips down both sides of the metal strip to more efficiently mold the nose area to the shape of your nose. Readjust the straps along the sides of your head until a proper seal is achieved.