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January
2018



Upcoming Dates:

February 22, 2018

Crisis Planning for Disasters –
Part II
“Shelter in Place”
Stark County Local Emergency
Planning



March 2018

Join us for Part III of the
Crisis Planning for Disasters Series -
Post Storm

January Presentation

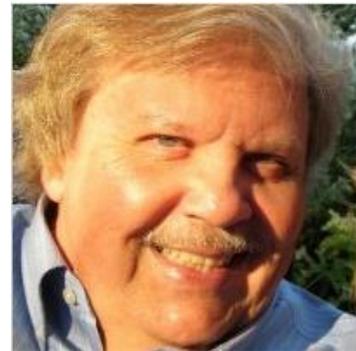
John Gareis, Regional Manager, Preparedness at the Northeast Ohio Region American Red Cross, joins us for Part I of the series, Crisis Planning for Disasters.

In his position, John manages the regional disaster training program and the instructors who educate 22 counties in planning for disaster. He has coordinated programs such as the Pillowcase Project, Dominion Project, Operation Save-A-Life and the National Fire Preparedness Program.

The Pillowcase Project is a preparedness education program for children in grades 3 – 5, which teaches students about personal and family preparedness, local hazards, and basic coping skills.

Operation Save-A-Life is a home fire preparedness campaign. In Northeast Ohio, the American Red Cross responds to an average of 3 home fires a day.

Please join us in welcoming John to the Eastern Stark County Safety Council.



**American
Red Cross**

Ask Robin



Question: “I want to grow a beard but I wear a sealed respirator at work. Will it still be effective?”

Answer: Ensuring the respirator seal is a vital part of respiratory protection practices. Facial hair that lies along the sealing area of a respirator, such as beards, sideburns, or some mustaches, will interfere with respirators that rely on a tight facepiece seal to achieve maximum protection. Facial hair is a common reason that someone cannot be fit tested.

The reason for this is simple – gases, vapors, and particles in the air will take the path of least resistance and bypass the part of the respirator that captures or filters hazards out. So then, why can't facial hair act as a crude filter to capture particles that pass between the respirator sealing area and the skin? While human hair appears to be very thin to the naked eye, hair is much larger

in size than the particles inhaled. Facial hair is just not dense enough and the individual hairs are too large to capture particles like an air filter does; nor will a beard trap gases and vapors like the carbon bed in a respirator cartridge. Therefore, the vast majority of particles, gases, and vapors follow the air stream right through the facial hair and into respiratory tract of the wearer. In fact, some studies have shown that even a day or two of stubble can begin to reduce protection. Research tells us that the presence of facial hair under the sealing surface causes 20 to 1000 times more leakage compared to clean-shaven individuals.

The Respiratory Protection standard, paragraph 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A), states that respirators shall not be worn when facial hair comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function. Facial hair is allowed as long as it does not protrude under the respirator seal, or extend far enough to interfere with the device's valve function. Short mustaches, sideburns, and small goatees that are neatly trimmed so that no hair compromises the seal of the respirator usually do not present a hazard and, therefore, do not violate paragraph 1910.134(g)(1)(i).

Legal Alert

While the temperatures are warming this week, the winter is not yet over.

The US Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is urging all those involved in snow removal and cleanup to take precautions and focus on Safety.



Workers performing snow removal operations may be exposed to serious hazards, including slips and falls while walking on snow and ice. Other storm recovery work hazards include being struck by vehicles, carbon monoxide poisoning from misuse of generators, hypothermia, and being injured by powered equipment.

Those working outdoors may also be at risk of cold stress, including first responders who are on duty for long periods of time. Anyone working outside for prolonged periods may experience cold stress with mild symptoms, such as shivering while remaining alert. Moderate to severe symptoms include when the shivering stops, confusion, slurred speech, heart rate/breathing slowness, and loss of consciousness. When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related injuries may occur, such as frostbite.

A full list of winter storm hazards and safeguards is available at http://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_weather/index.html or <http://www.osha.gov>.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance.

Source: <https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/01052018>

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