

Respiratory Hazards

Know the two basic kinds of respiratory hazards.

Particles...

are tiny pieces of matter that may or may not be visible. They include:

- dusts—dry particles such as sawdust.
- mists—liquid particles such as spray paint.
- fumes—tiny metal particles given off when a substance is burned.

Gases...

are substances that are dissolved in the air. You can't see them and may not even smell them. Gases include vapors given off by liquids when heated or left at room temperature.

Respiratory hazards can irritate or damage:

- lungs
- nasal passages
- other organs

You can't always see materials in the air that are dangerous to inhale. To protect yourself...

- Know what kind of respiratory hazard you're exposed to.
- Use the right kind of personal protective equipment for each hazard.