Air-Purifying Respirators

Air-Purifying Respirators (APRs) are used to provide respiratory protection to emergency responders operating in environments that are not oxygen deficient, but still require respiratory protection. Examples include conditions with heavy or hazardous air particulates or where there are low and known levels of certain chemical or biological agents. An APR uses an air-purifying filter, cartridge, or canister that removes specific air contaminants by passing ambient air through the air-purifying element.

In March 2006, the CDP conducted a comparative assessment of six NIOSH-approved APR. In preparation for the assessment, a focus group was conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group recommendations can be found in the Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) Assessment Focus Group Report. The Air-Purifying Respirators Market Survey Report provides information on commercial off-the-shelf APR. The Air-Purifying Respirators Assessment Report provides the results of a comparative assessment of APR.

Since the time of that first assessment, four additional APR were approved by NIOSH, and the SAVER Program conducted an additional comparative assessment in June 2007 to include any APR that were not previously assessed. The Market Survey Report on Air-Purifying Respirators (APR), February 2008, and the Assessment Report on Air-Purifying Respirators (APR), November 2007 will also be placed on the on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.

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