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**From:** Hearl, Frank J. (CDC/NIOSH/OD)  
**To:** McKernan, Lauralynn Taylor (CDC/NIOSH/EID); Howard, John (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Boord, Leslie F. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); BerryAnn, Roland (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Szalajda, Jonathan V. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); D'Alessandro, Maryann M. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Spahr, James S. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Kitt, Margaret (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Weissman, David (CDC/NIOSH/DRDS); Kiefer, Max (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Seitz, Teresa A. (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS); Ahlers, Heinz W. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Coffey, Christopher (CDC/NIOSH/DRDS); Delaney, Lisa (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS)  
**Sent:** 6/7/2010 3:52:03 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Use of Respirators for Oil Spill Responders

I just finished a ½ hour with Rosie Sokas and Tom Galassi and they told me the same thing. They (OSHA) are sampling and verifying BP's very low (not detected) VOC's and basically not finding much at all to justify respirator wearing. On the other hand they are observing lots of heat stress issues and they think that the risks of adding to the heat stress burden by anyone wearing respiratory protective gear far outweighs any risk from potential respiratory exposure to these low (ND) levels.

<Frank>

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**From:** McKernan, Lauralynn Taylor (CDC/NIOSH/EID)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** Hearl, Frank J. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Howard, John (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Boord, Leslie F. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); BerryAnn, Roland (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Szalajda, Jonathan V. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); D'Alessandro, Maryann M. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Spahr, James S. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Kitt, Margaret (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Weissman, David (CDC/NIOSH/DRDS); Kiefer, Max (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Seitz, Teresa A. (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS); Ahlers, Heinz W. (CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL); Coffey, Christopher (CDC/NIOSH/DRDS); Delaney, Lisa (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DSHEFS)  
**Subject:** RE: Use of Respirators for Oil Spill Responders

Please see confirmation from OSHA regarding their current respirator policy

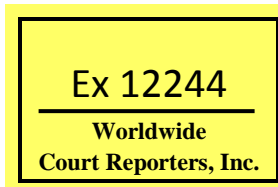
**From:** Coe, Cindy A. - OSHA  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 3:36 PM  
**To:** 'McKernan, Lauralynn Taylor (CDC/NIOSH/EID) '  
**Cc:** Wingo, Dean - OSHA  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification on OSHA respirator policy

Hi Lauralynn,

You are correct. We are currently not recommending respiratory protection. None of our sampling results, nor that of BP have indicated any levels of contaminants above any recommended OELs.

**From:** Wingo, Dean - OSHA  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Coe, Cindy A. - OSHA  
**Subject:** FW: Clarification on OSHA respirator policy

**From:** **Sent:** Mon 6/7/2010 2:56 PM  
**To:** Wingo, Dean - OSHA  
**Subject:** Clarification on OSHA respirator policy



Dean-

I've been asked to report on OSHA's policy on respirator use. NIOSH is considering its own respirator policy and will post it in the short term. Could you please confirm/elaborate/correct on OSHA's position?

From our conversations, I understand that OSHA is not currently recommending respirator use during the oil spill operations. Instead, OSHA is deferring to prudent practice and respirator decision logic. I also understand that OSHA has sampled and observed a variety of job titles and operations and are awaiting sample results.

We appreciate your offer to informally share sample results, when available. NIOSH will continue to share its insights and sample results informally, as we move forward.

Thanks,

Lauralynn

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Lauralynn Taylor McKernan, ScD CIH  
CDR US Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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