

*Did you ever wonder what is involved in being an Emergency Medical Service Provider? Below are photos of the fire department staff getting fit tested to N95 respirators in preparation for this year's H1N1 flu pandemic outbreak expected to hit us this fall.*



First, the examiner explains the process. He is holding a hand pump that will start to aerosolize a solution inside the hood.



Next, you have to stick out your tongue and let the operator know when you taste something bitter!



The test begins! With the respirator in place, the operator pumps the testing solution into the confinement hood.



The next step in the process is to perform several tasks while wearing the mask. This involves reading, moving your head, and different facial expressions in attempt to compromise the fit. All of this is done while the bitter solution is pumped into the hood.



Fire Medic Tim Hinkle now has a properly fit tested respirator!