



President IESF (British Section)
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Please reply to: - John R Beck
Honorary Secretary
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A Helping Hand at Easter-tide

Dear Members

When we contacted Martin Walkingshaw, Deputy Managing Director, LLW Repository Ltd., to propose a Lecture date for April 2021, he beamed straight back “Something to look forward to” he wrote. He attached a recent Options Study into the wider use of some of the Nuclear Industry’s Respiratory Protection Equipment (RPE).

Nuclear sites tend to have a lot of face respirators around, just in case of an incident that requires the workforce to ‘shelter in place’. Applying the Government stay at home policy, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has suspended their plutonium decommissioning work at Sellafield and declared ‘emergency arrangements’. Martin said that the nuclear industry does this sort of incident management pretty well. The workforce on site has been scaled down to essential staff only.

All this prompted them to comb the site for spare RPE and PPE - not now needed in the short term. “We have donated all our PPE and masks (excepting what we need for emergency response) to our **County Council’s Resilience Forum**. They are distributing to Healthcare and Care providers in this Region” he said.

The Options Study recognised that RPE and PPE have common purpose - to prevent internal uptake of foreign particles, whether alpha radioactive **or Coronavirus**. Analysing the range of RPE’s, the nuclear industry find the disposable half mask with FFP filters offer low protection but the P3 full face mask (with negative pressure) offers 50 times greater workplace protection.

The nuclear industry stands ready to offer PHE and NHS Healthcare their expertise in the safe use of RPE.

So, when a desperate North West Ambulance Service contacted Martin, and he could see the spare PPE piled up in the next room, he made a selection and delivered some of them himself!

Jane and I wish you a *Joyful Easter* – stay safe in isolation - mind the bugs don’t bite!

Best wishes

David

Dr. David Hughes President