

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, is designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from workplace hazards. A hazard assessment should be performed of shops, warehouses, yards, and offices to determine if hazards are present, or likely to be present, necessitating use of PPE. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards also require that workers are provided with the appropriate PPE and that the PPE is used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition.

Employees required to wear PPE should be trained on how to do the following:

- Use PPE properly
- Be aware of when PPE is necessary
- Know what kind of PPE is necessary
- Understanding the limitations of PPE in protecting employees from injury
- Don, adjust, wear, and doff PPE
- All PPE should be inspected and maintained properly

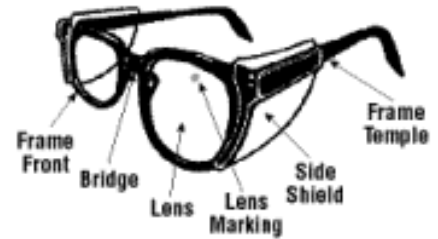
Hard Hats:

- Wear when exposed to falling object or flying object hazards.
- Hard hat areas should be posted
- Should meet American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z 89.1 1981
- Helmet suspensions and lines should be in good condition
- A hard hat cushions the blow if you hit your head on something
- It insulates you from burns and electric shocks (if a non-conductive type)
- It keeps your hair from getting tangled in machinery or equipment and getting dust or chemicals on it



Eye and Face Protection:

- Wear when there is a risk of eye injury due to flying particles, hazardous substances, and projections
- Protection should meet ANSI standard Z 87.1 1979
- Impact resistant glasses with shields, or impact resistant goggles, should be used when chipping, grinding, sawing, drilling, and other operations where there is danger of flying fragments, chips, or other particles
- Employees requiring prescription lenses should either wear protective eyewear that incorporates the prescription into its design or should wear eye protection over the prescription lenses without disturbing the position of the prescription or protective lenses



Hand Protection:

- Wear when work involves potential risk of cuts, burns, harmful physical or chemical agents, or radioactive material
- Impermeable gloves should be worn to prevent skin contact with hazardous substances
- Gloves should be replaced as required
- Gloves should fit properly
- Gloves should be appropriate to the work that is being done

Hearing Protection:

- Wear when there is a possibility of exposure to noise of more than 85 decibels during 8-hours of work
- Ear plugs from foam, waxed cotton, or fiberglass wool usually provide a good fit.
- Clean earplugs regularly, if used more than once
- Replace plugs you cannot clean or that are damaged



Protective Footwear:

- Should be worn where there is exposure to impact and penetration hazards, compression hazards, chemical exposures and electric shocks
- Protective footwear includes rubber boots, leather boots, steel-toed boots and shoes.
- Should meet ANSI standard Z-41
- Workers using jackhammers should wear steel covering the whole foot, as well as shins, and not just the toes
- Rubber boots should be worn when working with concrete or in water

Protective Clothing:

- Wear to protect against a variety of hazards including impact/penetration, hazardous chemicals, and heat
- Should be appropriate for work being done

- Clothing should be the proper size and fit comfortably
- If protective clothing is damaged, it should be replaced
- When working near vehicular traffic, workers should wear bright orange warning garments (shirts, vests, jackets)

Respirators:

- Respirators protect against gases, organic vapors and pesticides, dusts, mists, fumes, smoke, and aerosols
- A variety of respirators exist, including chemical cartridge, mechanical filters, particulate masks, and air-supplied respirators
- Respirators should fit properly and be appropriate to the work being done
- Respirators should be kept clean and in proper working order
- Damaged respirators should be repaired or replaced as necessary
- Per OSHA guidelines, all users shall be evaluated medically to determine if they can wear respirators while performing related duties, prior to wearing them.

