

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

<Be prepared to show and demonstrate usage for the specific personal protection equipment made available by the company as you go through each category... Contact CES if you utilize any other general PPE not included>

One way to prevent injuries at work is to wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). The hazards you face on the job need to be identified and then PPE should be provided according to the assessed hazard. The most common types of personal protective equipment are hard hats, safety boots, safety glasses and gloves.

Hard Hats: Hard Hats should be worn where there is a risk of receiving head injuries from flying or falling objects and/or electric shock and burns. All hard hats provided shall be the appropriate type and rating for the hazards you are exposed to. <good place to go over specific hard hats that are relevant to your company>

Foot Protection: Safety boots with metal or composite toe-caps protect the feet of workers who handle heavy loads or work around moving equipment. Many safety boots are now made with metal shanks in the soles to protect the feet from punctures under the feet. There are also safety boots that can protect the feet from injuries originating from electrical hazards, hot, corrosive, or poisonous substances, falling objects and crushing or penetrating actions. Rubber boots are good to wear while working in abnormally wet locations.

Eye Protection: OSHA regulations require employers to provide eye protection (and employees to wear it) where there is a reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such equipment. In our company, ANY use of power tools, hot work, and similar operations require eye protection. The equipment must meet the:

- Design requirements for eye protection equipment that are outlined as an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard and;
- Glasses that are certified to meet this standard. These are stamped with the **Z87.1** notation

A few more regulations to be aware of:

- Safety glasses should be reasonably comfortable for the wearer and should fit snugly without interfering with the movements of the worker.
- Glasses must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected.
- Individuals who require corrective lenses must either wear goggles or glasses with the correction built in or wear goggles over their normal glasses and;
- In every case, acceptable protection is mandatory.

It is important that you know, despite all that is known regarding the need to protect our eyes—people frequently neglect to do so at home and at work. Your location is insignificant when it comes to eye injuries- being aware and taking the necessary steps is key! Your best bet is to wear eye protection when the job or task requires it. If you are unsure of eye protection requirements, ask your supervisor. Don't wait for an injury to occur.

Hand Protection: Hand protection (gloves) shall be required for employees whose work involves unusual and excessive exposure to cuts, burns, harmful physical and/or chemical agents—including radioactive materials which; **IF** encountered can cause injury or impairments. Keep in mind that gloves should not be worn where there is a danger of the hand protection becoming entangled in moving machinery or materials.

It is our responsibility to train you on how to use and care for the (PPE) equipment and it must be done in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and company policies.

All personal protective equipment, whether employer-provided or employee-provided, needs to comply with OSHA requirements and approved by the company safety officer. All PPE shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary condition and shall have the appropriate ANSI certification.

PPE shall be of such design, fit and durability as to provide adequate protection against the hazards for which they are designed. They shall be reasonably comfortable and shall not impede your movements necessary to perform your work or tasks. Finally, make sure you check the condition of your PPE prior to EACH usage and report any malfunctions, excessive wear and tear, and/or if it no longer fits or works as intended.

Review any/all applicable company policies from the company safety manual with the team at this point.

SAFETY TAKE-AWAY:

If you feel additional PPE is needed for your job assignments, inform your supervisor and/or designated safety officer immediately so it can be addressed.