



TOOLBOX TALK – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) SAFETY

Topic

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Safety

Objective

To ensure all persons understand the importance of selecting, using, inspecting, and maintaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to reduce workplace injuries and occupational hazards.

What is PPE?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn to protect persons from workplace hazards that cannot be eliminated through engineering or administrative controls.

Remember: PPE is the **last line of defence** in the Hierarchy of Controls. It does not eliminate hazards-it helps reduce the risk of injury.

Why is PPE Important?

Proper use of PPE helps protect against:

- Head injuries
- Eye injuries
- Hearing loss
- Respiratory hazards
- Chemical exposure
- Hand injuries
- Foot injuries
- Cuts and abrasions
- Burns
- Flying particles
- Falling objects

Failure to wear the correct PPE can result in serious injury or fatality.

Common Types of PPE



Head Protection

- Safety helmet (hard hat)



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- Helmet with chin strap (for work at height)

Protects against:

- Falling objects
- Head impacts
- Electrical hazards (approved helmets)

Eye and Face Protection

- Safety glasses
- Chemical goggles
- Face shields
- Welding helmets

Protects against:

- Flying particles
- Chemical splashes
- Sparks
- Arc flash
- Dust

Hearing Protection

- Ear plugs
- Ear muffs

Required when noise levels exceed permissible exposure limits.

Respiratory Protection

- Dust masks
- N95 respirators
- Half-face respirators
- Full-face respirators
- SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)

Protects against:

- Dust
- Fumes



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- Toxic gases
- Vapors
- Oxygen-deficient atmospheres (SCBA only)



Hand Protection

Select gloves based on the hazard:

- Cut-resistant gloves
- Chemical-resistant gloves
- Heat-resistant gloves
- Electrical insulated gloves
- Leather gloves

Never use the wrong type of glove for the task.



Body Protection

- High-visibility vest
- Coveralls
- Chemical suits
- Arc flash clothing
- Fire-resistant (FR) clothing

Protects against:

- Chemicals
- Heat
- Fire
- Mechanical hazards
- Poor visibility



Foot Protection

- Steel toe safety shoes
- Composite toe boots
- Chemical-resistant boots
- Electrical hazard (EH) safety shoes

Protects against:



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- Falling objects
- Sharp objects
- Slips
- Electrical hazards



Fall Protection

For work at height:

- Full body harness
- Shock-absorbing lanyard
- Self-retracting lifeline (SRL)
- Approved anchor point

Maintain **100% tie-off** whenever required.

Before Using PPE

Always inspect PPE for:

- Cracks
- Tears
- Holes
- Broken straps
- Damaged buckles
- Expired inspection dates
- Contamination
- Missing parts

Do not use damaged PPE.

Proper Use of PPE

Always:

- ✓ Wear the correct PPE for the task.
- ✓ Ensure PPE fits properly.
- ✓ Fasten all straps and buckles securely.
- ✓ Replace damaged PPE immediately.
- ✓ Clean PPE after use.



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- ✓ Store PPE in a clean, dry location.
- ✓ Follow manufacturer instructions.

PPE Limitations

Remember:

- PPE does **not** eliminate hazards.
- PPE works only when worn correctly.
- Incorrect PPE can create additional risks.
- PPE must be compatible with other PPE being worn.

Care and Maintenance

- Clean reusable PPE after use.
- Store away from sunlight, chemicals, and moisture.
- Replace worn or damaged PPE.
- Inspect PPE before every use.
- Follow replacement schedules for helmets, harnesses, respirators, and other equipment.

Common PPE Mistakes

- Wearing damaged PPE
- Not fastening helmet chin straps
- Wearing scratched safety glasses
- Using incorrect gloves
- Removing PPE while still in the work area
- Sharing contaminated PPE
- Wearing worn-out safety shoes
- Using expired harnesses or respirators

Do's

- ✓ Wear the required PPE at all times.
- ✓ Inspect PPE before use.
- ✓ Keep PPE clean and in good condition.



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- ✓ Replace damaged PPE immediately.
- ✓ Report defective PPE to your supervisor.
- ✓ Follow site PPE requirements.

Don'ts

- ✗ Do not enter work areas without required PPE.
- ✗ Do not modify PPE.
- ✗ Do not use damaged or expired PPE.
- ✗ Do not remove PPE while exposed to hazards.
- ✗ Do not use someone else's PPE unless it has been properly cleaned and is intended for shared use.
- ✗ Do not ignore PPE inspection requirements.

Emergency Response

If PPE fails or becomes damaged during work:

1. Stop work immediately.
2. Move to a safe area.
3. Replace the damaged PPE.
4. Inform your supervisor.
5. Resume work only after proper PPE is available.

Key Safety Message

PPE is your last line of defence-not your first. Always wear the right PPE, inspect it before use, and never compromise on safety.



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Quick Safety Quiz

Q1. What does PPE stand for?

A. Personal Prevention Equipment

B. Personal Protective Equipment ☒

C. Professional Protection Equipment

Q2. When should PPE be inspected?

A. Once a month

B. Before every use ☒

C. Only after an incident

Q3. Is PPE a substitute for safe work practices?

A. Yes

B. No, PPE is the last line of defense ☒

C. Only during emergencies