



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE Equipment

TODAY'S TOOLBOX TALK WILL ADDRESS THE TOPIC OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

This toolbox talk is designed to provide education and training in the area of best practice and should not be considered as an exhaustive method of training. The information provided in this toolbox talk should be taken into consideration along with the guidelines set out in the Employee Handbook and all other company workplace health and safety policies and procedures.

DEFINITION

Personal Protective Equipment is anything that an employee wears to minimise workplace safety risk. It can include items such as safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and respiratory protective equipment.

When Personal Protective Equipment is worn in the workplace, employees need to be trained on how the PPE protects them from hazards, what its limitations are, how to wear and care for it and what to do when it needs to be replaced.

TYPES OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



EYES

Safety spectacles, goggles, face screens, face shields, visors



EARS

Earplugs, earmuffs, semi-insert/canal caps



HANDS AND ARMS

Gloves, gloves with a cuff, Gauntlets and sleeving that covers part or all of the arm



WHOLE BODY

Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, aprons and chemical suits.



HEAD AND NECK

Industrial safety helmets, bump caps, hairnets and firefighter's helmets.



LUNGS

Respiratory Protective Equipment including facepieces, half and full masks.



FEET AND LEGS

Safety boots and shoes with protective toecaps and penetration-resistant, mid-sole wellington boots and specific footwear (foundry boots and chainsaw boots).



General REQUIREMENTS



PPE SHOULD BE THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE



The use of Personal Protective Equipment is lowest on the list of control priorities.

The first two lines of defence against safety hazards should be engineering and administrative controls. Only after deploying both of these should PPE be used to guard against safety hazards. **These controls should not be relied on as the primary means of risk control until the options higher in the list control priorities have been exhausted.**

PPE MUST FIT AND BE WORK PROPERLY

Personal Protective Equipment that is too large or too small may not properly protect you from hazards and could create additional hazards. Wearing improper PPE could subject you to harm.

REUSABLE PPE MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND WELL-MAINTAINED

Reusable PPE should be cleaned after each use and inspected before every use to ensure that it is still in good working order.

PPE DOESN'T LAST FOREVER

Worn out PPE may not provide the proper protection and can become a hazard. Replace PPE when it shows visible signs of wear or when test data shows that it is no longer serviceable.

PPE ONLY PROTECTS YOU WHEN YOU'RE WEARING IT

Even the most expensive, highest quality PPE won't protect you if it is not on your body and properly applied.

STAY CAUTIOUS WHILE WEARING PPE

No piece of PPE will protect you against every workplace hazard. That's why there are so many types and styles. Each one protects you from different types of hazards. No matter what PPE you wear, it is still essential to follow the safety procedures that have been established by your employer.





Always **REMEMBER**

Don't be afraid to ask questions about the PPE you are wearing and never hesitate to replace PPE that is worn out or does not fit well. It is your job to make sure that it is worn properly and fits well.



Group **DISCUSSION**

ASK THE GROUP THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1 What jobs require you to wear PPE?
- 2 What possible injuries could result from not wearing your PPE?
- 3 Has anyone in the group been injured when PPE would have prevented the injury?



**INSPECT YOUR WORK AREA FOR PPE;
REPLACE BROKEN EQUIPMENT AND
ORDER MISSING EQUIPMENT.**

