

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Safety Talk 7
JULY 2024



1 MEETING OBJECTIVES:

The primary objectives of Safety Talk 5: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are:

1. Increase knowledge and awareness of PPE and its importance.
2. Spark innovative conversations and ideas for the correct use of PPE in the workplace.
3. Encourage open communication and the expression of concerns within the group.
4. Develop a plan to explore and investigate ideas and concerns raised regarding PPE.

2 SAFETY TALK:

Take 5 minutes to review Safety Talk 5: Personal Protective Equipment on the next page. Your team may choose to each read the Safety Talk individually or take turns reading out loud.

3 KNOWLEDGE CHECK:

As a team, spend a couple minutes completing this knowledge check:

- Can you name different types of PPE used in our workplace?
- What are the key requirements for the proper use of PPE?
- How can we ensure the correct selection and maintenance of PPE?

4 GROUP DISCUSSION:

Take a few minutes to share with your team your thoughts, experiences, and innovative ideas for ensuring the correct use of PPE at work. Questions to guide the discussion can include:

- Have you encountered situations where PPE was not used correctly or was needed but not available?
- How can we further promote PPE awareness in our team?
- Are there any additional safety measures we should consider in relation to PPE?

5 CONCLUSION & POST-MEETING FOLLOW-UP:

The supervisor will be responsible for investigating any raised occupational health, safety, and/or wellness innovations, issues, or concerns as well as establishing a timeline for follow-up and reporting back to the group. To learn more about this topic, the following documents on CKCentral can be reviewed:

1. HS - 006 Personal Protective Equipment

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Section 1: Understanding the Importance of PPE

When addressing potential hazards, it is important to conduct a risk assessment to determine the need for PPE. There are five primary methods for controlling hazards, with elimination as the initial control measure to be considered. Subsequently, progress through the hierarchy of controls until reaching PPE as a last-resort control. When using PPE, you must understand its purpose, how to inspect it for defects, correct usage, and storage.

Section 2: Proper Use of PPE

Selection: Choose appropriate PPE based on the specific hazards present in the workplace. Different tasks may require different types of protection, such as gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, etc.

Fit: Ensure a proper fit for each individual. PPE should be comfortably snug without being too tight or too loose to maximize its effectiveness.

Training: Provide thorough training on how to correctly use, wear, and remove PPE and be aware of when to replace or repair it.

Inspection: Regularly inspect PPE for any signs of damage or wear. Damaged equipment may not provide adequate protection and should be replaced promptly.

Maintenance: Perform regular maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer. This includes cleaning, disinfecting, and storing PPE properly to extend its lifespan and effectiveness.

Storage: Store PPE in a clean and dry environment. Exposure to sunlight, extreme temperatures, or chemicals can degrade the materials and compromise the protection offered.

Accessibility: Ensure easy access to PPE when needed for routine tasks or in case of emergencies.

Section 3: Types of PPE

- **Eye Protection:** Prevents irreversible eye accidents. Includes face shields, safety glasses, and goggles and is required when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, liquid chemicals, chemical gases or vapours, infectious material, or potentially harmful light radiation.
- **Hearing Protection:** Protects ears from permanent damage. Hearing protection (such as earplugs or earmuffs) is to be worn when working in an environment with a duration or decibel level of noise above regulation.
- **Head Protection:** Wear head protection securely, adjust bands to distribute the load evenly, and wear brim forward. Activities include working on ice, construction, and tree trimming/removal.
- **Foot Protection:** Wearing appropriate footwear prevents injuries such as twists, strains, slips, trips, falls, and foot-related injuries by providing traction and protection.
- **Hand Protection:** Shields against hand hazards. Wear hand protection when handling rough materials and when there is potential for cuts or exposure of bodily fluids or chemicals.
- **Respiratory Protection:** Protects against airborne contaminants and harmful particles such as exposure to dangerous gases, vapours, fumes, dust, mist, or oxygen deficiency.

