

OSHA Safety Training Personal Protective Equipment



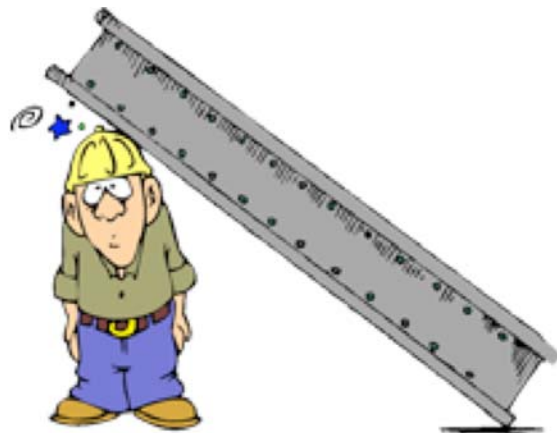
Hazards in your workplace can be sharp edges, falling objects, flying sparks, chemicals, noise, or many other potentially dangerous situations. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires all employers to protect their employees from workplace hazards. Controlling a hazard at its source is the best way to protect employees.

Personal Protective Equipment in construction is commonly required to protect:

- The head
- The feet and legs
- The arms and hands
- Hearing
- Eyes and face

Elements of an appropriate PPE program:

- The employer uses engineering and work practice controls to eliminate or reduce hazards before using PPE.
- The employer assesses the workplace for hazards.
- The employer selects appropriate PPE to protect employees from hazards that cannot be eliminated.
- Employees are informed about why the PPE is necessary and when it must be worn.
- Employees are trained in proper use and care of the PPE.
- Employees are required to wear PPE as protection from identified and likely hazards in their work area.



PPE Requirements

The best way to ensure a safe workplace for everyone is for employers and employees to cooperate and assume joint responsibility. In general, your employer is responsible for:

- Continually working to identify and control hazards.
- Providing appropriate PPE for employees.
- Training employees in the use and care of the PPE.
- Maintaining PPE, including replacing worn or damaged PPE.
- Periodically reviewing, updating and evaluating the effectiveness of the PPE program.

In general, employees should:

- Attend training sessions and know how to use their PPE.
- Properly wear PPE.
- Care for, clean and maintain their PPE
- Always inform a supervisor if PPE needs to be repaired or replaced

In general, your employer should provide PPE at no cost.

When employees are required to use PPE, training for each specific type of PPE should include:

- Why it is necessary
- How it will protect them
- What its limitations are
- When and how to wear
- How to identify signs of wear
- How to clean and disinfect
- What its useful life is and how to dispose of it

Assessing Hazards

The employer's first responsibility is to assess the workplace for hazards that are present or that are likely to be present which will necessitate PPE for any part of the body. Per OSHA 1926.95(a) and (b), employers must provide PPE for employees if:

- Their work environment presents a hazard or is likely to present a hazard to any part of their bodies;
- Their work processes present a hazard or are likely to present a hazard to any part of their bodies;
- During their work, they might come into contact with hazardous chemicals, radiation, or mechanical irritants;
- They are unable to eliminate employee exposure or potential exposure to the hazard by engineering, work practice, or administrative controls.

Seven items that should be covered during PPE training:

- Why training is necessary.
- How the PPE will protect the wearer
- What the PPE's limitations are
- When and how to wear the PPE
- How to identify signs of wear
- How to clean and disinfect the PPE
- What the useful life of the PPE is, and how to dispose of unusable equipment