

# KSU Facilities Safety Bulletin

March 2013

National Action Summit for  
Latino Worker Health and Safety

"Latino workers face the most  
dangerous working  
conditions and the fewest protections."

-OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels

## PPE ALERT

The Division has encountered injuries due to not wearing the provided PPE. These injuries could have been prevented. Please make sure to use PPE in accordance to manufacturer instructions and select the type to be worn based on the hazard(s) you may encounter.

## How to Determine When PPE Is Required

PPE is an abbreviation for personal protective equipment--the clothing or equipment used in a number of occupations that involve tasks that could cause bodily injury. Inspect your work area and evaluate the task you will be performing to determine what equipment and clothing is needed. KSU Division of Facilities follows OSHA recommendations for PPE use.



### Protection from Head Injuries

Hard hats can protect your workers from head impact, penetration injuries, and electrical injuries such as those caused by falling or flying objects, fixed objects, or contact with electrical conductors. Also, OSHA regulations require employers to ensure that workers cover and protect long hair to prevent it from getting caught in machine parts such as belts and chains. Facilities provides approved Hard Hats. Look on the inside of the bill for Class A, B, E, or G to determine which is an approved level of protection.

### Protection from Foot and Leg Injuries

In addition to foot guards and safety shoes, leggings (e.g., leather, aluminized rayon, or other appropriate material) can help prevent injuries by protecting workers from hazards such as falling or rolling objects, sharp objects, wet and slippery surfaces, molten metals, hot surfaces, chemical and electrical hazards. Facilities provides slip resistant shoe covers such as Grip Lites and Shoes for Crews for wet floors, slippery surfaces and ice/snow.

### Protection from Eye and Face Injuries

Besides spectacles and goggles, personal protective equipment such as special helmets or shields, spectacles with side shields, and face shields can protect workers from the hazards of flying fragments, large chips, hot sparks, intense light, optical radiation, splashes from molten metals, as well as objects, particles, sand, dirt, mists, dusts, chemicals and glare. Facilities provides a variety of protective eyewear based on the hazard encountered. Protection ranges from impact rated safety glasses to goggles that can be chemical and impact rated. Remember safety glasses cannot be worn during chemical use, only goggles. Special eyewear is provided that can go over prescription lens.

### When to Wear Respiratory Protection

When engineering controls are not feasible, workers must use appropriate respirators to protect against adverse health effects caused by breathing air contaminated with harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors. Respirators generally cover the nose and mouth or the entire face or head and help prevent illness and injury. A proper fit is essential for respirators to be effective. Required respirators must be NIOSH-approved. Employees must receive medical evaluation and training prior to use. Facilities provides a wide range of respiratory equipment from N95 Masks, 1/2 mask and full mask respirators and powered air purifying respirators. A variety of filters and cartridges are available based on contaminate exposure.

Specialized Clothing-Facilities requires those individuals assigned to work on or near energized electrical equipment to participate in the NFPA 70 E program. Participants are provided the special FR clothing: pants, shirts, coveralls and rain gear. In addition, Arc-rated hard hat, face shield, gloves, ear plugs and balaclava are provided. 100% Cotton T-shirt are provided when working de-energized.

### Protection from Hearing Loss

Wearing earplugs or earmuffs can help prevent damage to hearing. Exposure to high noise levels can cause irreversible hearing loss or impairment as well as physical and psychological stress. Earplugs made from foam, waxed cotton, or fiberglass wool are self-forming and usually fit well. Clean earplugs regularly, and replace those you cannot clean. Facilities provides hearing protection ear muffs and ear plugs, both non-disposable and disposable.

### Protection from Hand Injuries

Workers exposed to harmful substances through skin absorption, severe cuts or lacerations, severe abrasions, chemical burns, thermal burns, and harmful temperature extremes will benefit from hand protection. Facilities provides a wide range of hand protection: leather, cotton, chemical, cryogenic, cut resistant, latex, hot work and electrically rated.

### Protection from Body Injury

In some cases workers must shield most or all of their bodies against hazards in the workplace, such as exposure to heat and radiation as well as hot metals, scalding liquids, body fluids, hazardous materials or waste, asbestos, blood and other hazards. In addition to fire-retardant wool and fire retardant cotton, materials used in whole-body personal protective equipment include rubber, leather, synthetics, and plastic. Facilities provides a wide range of body protective suits based on the task that is being performed.

**Please Note: Fall Protection Equipment such as full body harnesses, lanyards and self-retracting life lines are available for those working on elevated surfaces above 4ft.**

There is no reason for injuries resulting from a lack of PPE or inappropriate use. KSU Division of Facilities trains all workers and provides all necessary equipment.