

Personal Protective Equipment

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in one period of observation, hard hats were worn by only 16% of workers who sustained head injuries, although 2/5th's were required to wear them for certain tasks at specific locations. Only 1% of approximately 770 workers who suffered face injuries were wearing face protection. 23% of the workers with foot injuries wore safety shoes or boots. About 40% of the workers with eye injuries wore eye protective equipment. A majority of these workers were injured while performing their normal jobs at regular worksites.

Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is critical to successfully working in many high-risk work environments. In some cases, PPE stands as the only control for specific hazards. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is clothing and equipment that protect various parts of your body against hazards you may be exposed to on the job.

There are so many ways to be injured on a normal worksite, that forsaking personal protective equipment (PPE) is allowing for substantial risk of harm. Damage can occur to the body in several ways, including respiratory distress, accidental ingestion, and what gets absorbed or injected into the skin. That's just to name a few.

Some hazards may be controlled by eliminating them at the source through engineering and administrative controls, but personal protective equipment (PPE) is a crucial safety precaution often used in combination with other controls. When those controls can't eliminate the hazard, personal protective equipment (PPE) can provide acceptable protection within its capabilities and limitations. It's important to remember that PPE doesn't eliminate hazards; it just minimizes exposure. Therefore, PPE should be viewed as the "last line of defense" in protecting you from workplace hazards. Wearing the PPE provided by a company is the last thing a worker can do to keep themselves on the job and out of harm's way.

Source: <https://vividlearningsystems.com/courses/osha/personal-protective-equipment>

April Vivid Courses:

All:

Personal Protective Equipment

Operations:

Respiratory Protection Overview

Respiratory Protection Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach workers the purpose of respirators and the preparations, maintenance and storage requirements. Workers will also learn when it is permissible to leave a respirator use area, the warning signs that a respirator is not functioning properly, and how respirator emergencies and malfunctions should be handled.

Respirators protect the user in two basic ways. The first is by the removal of contaminants from the air. Respirators of this type include particulate respirators, which filter out airborne particles, and air-purifying respirators with cartridges/canisters which filter out chemicals and gases. Other respirators protect by supplying clean respirable air from another source. Respirators that fall into this category include airline respirators, which use compressed air from a remote source, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which include their own air supply.

Source: <https://vividlearningsystems.com/courses/5-minute/respiratory-protection-overview>