

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Fact Sheet

Release Date: April 22, 2020

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to protect individuals from injuries and illnesses that can result from contact with hazardous materials or equipment in the workplace.

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes clothing and equipment worn or held by an employee as protection against safety or health hazards. PPE includes safety helmets, eyewear, hand gloves, safety shoes, fall protection equipment, respirators, and high visibility vests. PPE is required when there are recognized hazards that could cause serious injury or death. PPE is one of the last lines of defense against workplace hazards. The hierarchy of hazard control is: 1. Elimination, 2. Substitution, 3. Engineering controls, 4. Administrative controls, 5. PPE.

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For more information on PPE requirements, visit [OSHA-OSHA.gov](#).

- Employers must provide PPE at no cost to employees.
- Employees must be trained on the proper use and care of PPE.
- PPE must be inspected before use and replaced if damaged.
- PPE must be stored properly to prevent damage.
- Employees must follow all instructions for the use of PPE.

For more information on PPE requirements, visit [OSHA-OSHA.gov](#).



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