

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can reduce the risk of infection a great deal. Know the potential exposure before beginning a task and select the appropriate PPE. In most cases even a first-aid responder knows the situation in advance and can determine the type of care they must give (CPRA, trauma, etc.).

Appropriate PPE should be selected and used. However, the law does not allow the worker to forego equipment under rare circumstances. If wearing the equipment prevents giving health care or causes a hazard, it does not have to be worn. An evaluation of why equipment was not used will be conducted at a later date. This will help the employer avoid similar situations in the future.

GLOVES

Disposable gloves are probably the most common and standard type of protection. At a minimum, all first-aid kits should contain several pairs of these gloves. First-aid responders and any other worker providing patient care should use gloves. Extra pairs should be available.

All gloves should fit properly. The gloves should fit tightly at the wrist to prevent blood from entering the glove. The strength and thickness are also important. Match the durability and feel of the glove to the task performed.

The following general recommendations have been suggested:

1. Use sterile gloves while contacting sterile areas of the body.
2. Use examination gloves for procedures involving contact with mucous membranes (eyes, mouth, nose, etc.)
3. Use general purpose utility gloves (rubber gloves) for household chores like cleaning blood spills and equipment.

If the situation causes exposure to sharp objects special care must be taken. Structural fire-fighters gloves are recommended in situations such as pulling victims from an auto wreck.

Use of gloves often causes objects to become contaminated. The wearer may use a phone, pencil or other personal object with the glove. The personal protection was there but the individual did not think about the object.

Do not handle personal effects while wearing gloves. Remove gloves as soon as possible. Avoid allowing the outer glove to contact the skin. Dispose of gloves in a properly labeled leak-proof bag. Wash hands thoroughly.

MASKS, EYEWEAR AND GOWNS

Masks, eyewear and gowns are common PPE on emergency vehicles to protect the rescuers. Work places should offer the same protection to first-aid responders. Equipment should be selected according to the level of exposure.

First-aid responders must determine the level of exposure based on the victim's condition. Protection for launderers may be as simple as using goggles and gloves. All procedures should be reviewed by a trained individual to determine the appropriate protection. Where high risk of exposure or an exposure incident occurs, work uniforms or protective equipment such as lab coats should not be worn home. They should be laundered separately. Disposable gowns are available for single use such as first aid.