

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ USING PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Whenever your work exposes you to hazards, you will need to wear some type of personal protective equipment (PPE). In many cases, a combination of PPE may be needed to ensure the best protection. PPE used in the construction industry includes respirators, safety glasses or goggles, gloves, hard hats and safety shoes and coveralls.

When engineering controls and administrative practices do not successfully reduce your exposure to hazards, personal protective equipment must be provided for your use. PPE is the final barrier between you and the hazards you face. Airborne contaminants and injuries from falling objects are examples of hazards which can be controlled with this equipment.

Understanding hazards and how they affect the body is an equally important part of using PPE. Chemical exposure can come in a variety of forms. Likewise, protective equipment will differ depending on the type of hazardous material and its specific properties. When using certain corrosive materials or solvents, goggles which offer splash protection will be needed instead of regular safety glasses. Certain types of protective gloves will guard against solvent laded chemical while others won't. In many cases, the use of an organic respirator cartridge may be necessary when using certain welding materials. But if you are working in an area where oxygen levels may be low, you would need a self-contained breathing apparatus.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Protective clothing includes hard hats, aprons, gloves and shoes. IN some cases, the basic type of clothing you wear may be considered protective in nature if it helps prevent injury. Depending on the type, protective clothing can help reduce the possibility of crushing injuries, chemical, thermal and electrical burns, and electric shock. At the highest level, protective clothing will create a vapor proof barrier to prevent exposure to extremely toxic substances.

In this industry, workers are exposed to struck-by type injuries when objects fall from higher elevations. Hard hats help protect against these deadly accidents. Because you are usually working on construction sites, a sturdy pair of work boots will offer added protection against foot injuries. Coveralls will not only keep you clothes clean, but they will help reduce chemical contact with the skin. And the right type of gloves will prevent many painful hand injuries such as dermatitis.

Other types of personal protective clothing include reflective vests for working in heavy traffic areas, life-jackets (flotation devices) when working around water, and clothing to protect against extreme cold and heat.

Protective clothing should be properly maintained. Perform regular inspections to identify punctures, tears, cracks and worn areas. Clothing exposed to solvents and caustic substances will last longer if cleaned after each use. Never use any protective clothing that shows signs of excessive wear or damage.

## EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

Safety glasses are probably the most universally used of all personal protective equipment. Despite that fact, approximately 1000 workplace eye injuries occur daily in the United States alone. It is difficult to convince some construction workers to wear safety glasses, but many eye injuries could be prevented through the proper use of eye and face protection. There are four major types of eye and face protection.

Goggles are primary protective devices. They shield the eyes from a variety of hazards by offering a complete seal around the eyes. There are two types of goggles, "eye cup" and "cover." Eye cup goggles cover each eye socket individually while the cover type surrounds the outside border of the eyes and may be worn with eye glasses. Goggles may have rigid or flexible frames and ventilation to minimize fogging. They can also be fitted with a variety of lenses. Goggles are especially useful when working with finer particulates, sprays and corrosive liquids.

Spectacles/glasses are also primary protectors usually worn to guard against impact. Lenses are available in clear, filtered or tinted materials. Frames come in a variety of colors and styles to fit many needs and uses. Because spectacles do not completely seal the eye from hazards, they do not offer adequate protection against splashes and some airborne particles.

Face shields are protective devices intended to shield the wearer's face and eyes. Face shields are secondary protectors and should only be used in combination with a primary protector such as spectacles. They may be made from materials such as clear or tinted plastic. Face shields are especially useful in combination with spectacles when working with corrosive liquids.

Welding helmets are designed with special lenses to protect the eyes from infrared, visible and ultraviolet radiation. Lenses are classified by shade numbers. There are three types of welding helmets: stationary front, lift front and hand shields. Welding helmets are considered secondary protectors.

Operations such as grinding, cutting, sanding, welding and mixing or pouring corrosive liquids require the use of some form of eye and face protection. Safety glasses should also be worn by employees and visitors passing through areas where such work is being performed.

Almost every type of eye and face protection can now be fitted with corrective lenses. Contact lenses should not be worn in dusty and chemical environments. Eye and face protection is rated by the American National Standards Institute. Their tests are performed to ensure that eye and face protection meets minimum levels of performance. Protective devices will be marked to show compliance with "Z87" and the manufacturer's trademark. Other ANSI symbols include "Rx" indicating prescription lenses, "S" for special purpose lenses and "V" for photochromic lenses which darken when exposed to light.