



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AWARENESS

### When Should PPE Be Worn?

Before you resort to PPE, you should first:

- Use administrative controls
  - Does the job need to be done?
  - Can you use multiple people at different times so one person isn't exposed to a hazard for an extended period of time?
- Implement Engineering Controls
  - Use local exhaust or general ventilation vs. a respirator
  - Control dust with a wet process vs. dry
  - Install sound reducing devices to mechanical equipment
- When these other two means of protection are exhausted you then will need to select the appropriate PPE. (Often Times PPE will be used in conjunction with administrative and engineering controls for added protection.)

### Basic Types of PPE:

- Head (Protects against falling, bumping, splashing, electrical hazards)
  - Hard Hat
- Hearing (Over 90 Decibels for 8 hours a day requires hearing protection)
  - Ear Muffs: One size fits all, comfortable, less ear infection risk
  - Ear Plugs: Small, lightweight, can get dirty and cause infection
- Face/Eye (Working with any chemical or using any mechanical equipment)
  - Face Shield: Protect face from splashing and particles
  - Safety Glasses: Protection from solids (cutting, sanding, grinding..)
  - Safety Goggles: Protects eyes from splashing
- Hand (Use correct glove for the job)
  - Gloves Chemical: Refer to manufacturer info for breakthrough rating for different gloves (Nitrile, Latex, PVC...)
  - Gloves: Other: special gloves for slicing/cutting, burning, abrasions/blisters.
- Body (Never reuse Tyvek suits and wash lab coats after every use)
  - Lab Coats: Protects clothes/skin from minor splashes
  - Tyvek Suits: Can protect against dust, vapors, splashes (depending on type of suit)
- Foot Protection (If electrical hazard present ensure boots offer protection)
  - Safety Toe/Steel Toe Boots: Always worn when potential for falling hazards exists
  - Water/Chemical Resistant Booties: Use in a spill situation

### Group Discussion Topics:

- What jobs require you to wear PPE? What possible injuries could result from not wearing your PPE?
- Has anyone been injured when PPE would have prevented the injury?
- Inspect your work area for PPE; replace broken equipment, order missing equipment.