



# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

## SAFETY FIRST

The University of Memphis is required by OSHA regulations to provide and require the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when there is a reasonable probability that an injury can be prevented by such equipment.



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The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University.  
It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.

## WHY PPE?

Using the correct PPE allows you to reduce your risk of injury or illness (e.g., puncture wounds, cuts, bruises, eye damage, burns, broken bones and hearing loss).



These and other types of workplace injuries can be caused when PPE is not being worn or the PPE is not fully protecting the worker, either due to poor fit or improper use.

Wearing PPE does not eliminate the hazard; therefore, PPE failure, wearing the wrong PPE, and improperly fitting PPE can allow you to be exposed to the hazard.

## WHEN IS PPE NEEDED?

PPE is needed when working conditions present risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled through engineering controls, work practices and other risk reduction methods. Some conditions that require PPE include exposure to chemicals, biological agents, radiation, process hazards and mechanical hazards.

When PPE is necessary, your department must, in most cases, provide suitable PPE at no cost to you. Like any other equipment, PPE must be accompanied by instructions and training on how to safely and properly use the equipment. In some cases, such as using a respirator, use of PPE must be preceded by a medical clearance, fit testing and other tasks.

PPE must be kept in a sanitary and reliable condition at all times. Employees should take care to abide by all PPE rules and associated signage.

## RISKS & PROTECTION



**BODY RISKS:** Temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical splashes, spray from pressure leaks, impact, dust

**PROTECTION:** Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, high-visibility clothing

**HEARING RISKS:** Noise

levels higher than 80 dB  
**PROTECTION:** Earmuffs, earplugs, semi-inserts



**EYE RISKS:** Chemical or metal splash, dust, radiation, gas and vapor

**PROTECTION:** Safety spectacles or goggles, face or eye shields

**HEAD RISKS:** Hair entanglement, bumping, impact from falling or flying objects

**PROTECTION:** Helmet, bump cap

**BREATHING RISKS:** Dust, vapor, gas, low-oxygen areas.

**PROTECTION:** Half or full-face respirator or breathing apparatus, disposable filtering face mask

**FEET AND LEGS RISKS:** Wet surfaces, electrostatic build-up, lacerations, splashes

**PROTECTION:** Chaps, safety boots with protective toe caps and penetration resistance

**HANDS AND ARMS RISKS:** Abrasions, temperature extremes, lacerations, impact, chemicals, electric shock

**PROTECTION:** Gloves, mitts



## EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

### YOUR DEPARTMENT MUST:

- Provide suitable protective equipment FREE\* of charge.
- Maintain PPE in working order and good condition.
- Provide training in the proper use of PPE and consult employees, regularly, on suitability of PPE.

### EQUIPMENT MUST:

- Protect effectively against the risks in the workplace.
- Be relevant for the work undertaken.
- Comply with relevant standards.
- Fit properly and comfortably.
- Not add to the risks involved.

### EMPLOYEES MUST:

- Use the PPE provided.
- Report any defects or damage of PPE.
- Store PPE correctly when not in use.

\*Some exceptions apply.

