

PPE—GENERAL

IT ONLY WORKS IF YOU WEAR IT!



This talk discusses the importance of proper use of personal protective equipment, or PPE, in the workplace.

Materials to have on hand:

- Company policy on PPE use
- PPE used at your facility

Items for attendees to consider during talk:

- Have you a reason for not wearing your PPE?
- What PPE are you required to use at our facility?
- What should you do if your PPE is uncomfortable?

TALK

Some hazards at work simply can't be eliminated completely by engineering controls or substitutions. That's when the company needs to provide you with personal protective equipment—or PPE. Sounds simple—yet, is it?

Think of some reasons you or others have had for not wearing your PPE: “The glasses are uncomfortable.” “The shoes pinch my toes.” “This hard hat is too heavy.”

The type of equipment required to provide the needed protection depends on the particular type of work being done. In areas where flying particles are likely to be found, goggles need to be used to protect the

eyes. Similarly, the kind of protection safety shoes are supposed to provide determines what type of shoe is appropriate. In other words, it must be slip-proof, nonconductive, high-topped, or steel-toe. And the type of safety helmet to be worn depends on the type of hazard the wearer is likely to encounter. In some jobs, hard hats may be adequate; in many they are not.

[Customize for your specific workplace]

[_____] has conducted a hazard analysis for every job at our facility—to make sure all the factors in our work that would call for requiring PPE are identified. The company will supply all the necessary protective equipment to protect you from the safety and health hazards identified in the hazard analysis.

We want you to be safe at work, and your PPE is designed to protect you, but it only functions if you wear it. If your equipment is uncomfortable or you have some other concerns about using the PPE, please let your supervisor know immediately. Don't begin a task that requires the use of PPE without it.

If your PPE is uncomfortable, it probably doesn't fit properly. The company is here to help you because we want you to go home safe every day. We will work with you to find the correct fit for the equipment you need. You can try out several different types to see if there is one that feels better. But sometimes it just takes some time to get used to wearing the equipment.

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Talk Date: _____

Location: _____

**Supervisor/
Presenter:** _____

Attendees: _____

Comments: _____

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It's also very important to inspect your PPE before each time you use it. Don't use any equipment that is damaged. And be sure to report any damaged, lost,

or worn out PPE to your supervisor. Your safety is our priority!