

PPE – The Last Resort

What is PPE?

Short for Personal Protective Equipment, PPE is designed to protect employees from injury or illnesses resulting from hazardous operations in the workplace.

When should it be used?

Employers should require use of PPE to protect their employees from hazards...**but as a last resort.** The first option should always be to see if a hazard can be eliminated from the work area. If this is not possible, then consider transferring the risk, contracting out the job, reducing the exposure, Administrative controls then finally PPE.

What needs to be protected?

Wearing an armored suit would be ridiculous, but when doing your analysis on personal protection, that visual may apply. Consider exposures from head to toe and ensure that all exposed body parts are protected. The typical exposures are as follows:

PPE Analysis

- Assess work areas for all potential hazards
- Select proper PPE for those hazards as a last resort
- Identify how you will train employees on the use of PPE
- Identify how you will enforce proper PPE
- Identify how you will provide for any medical exams
- Identify how you will evaluate PPE effectiveness.

Head

Head injuries can be fatal. Hard hats should be required when this exposure exists. Also, don't forget about long hair, as this can get caught in machinery and cause just as serious of an injury.

Eye & Face

Safety glasses and face shields are engineered to withstand high impact forces. There should be no substitute for approved safety glasses.

Hearing

Hearing loss is irreversible, and constant exposure to high noise levels will eventually lead to hearing loss if not protected. Ensure that hearing protection is used correctly and cleaned often.

Respiratory

Inhalation is another way hazards can enter the body. For respirator protection, a person must be fitted correctly for equipment, medically tested to see if he/she is capable to use

the equipment, and trained on the proper use and care of the equipment.

Hand

Hazardous

material can be absorbed through the skin, and proper hand protection can help prevent this. Also whenever there is an exposure to laceration and pinch points, gloves



should be required.

Body

There may be instances when an employee must protect their whole body from heat, flying objects, and hazardous materials. In these cases, the use of an "armored suit" may not be that off based.

Feet

Slip/Fall exposures, crushing exposures and puncture exposures are all reasons to require the use of proper foot wear.

Analyze • Inform • Motivate



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About DTRIC Insurance Risk Consulting Services

The Risk Consulting Services team at DTRIC Insurance is designed to help you reduce accidents and injuries in the workplace. Our approach involves our proven **A.I.M.** process that is easy to understand and simple to implement.



ANALYZE

We start by helping you understand and assess your current situation with services including:

- Safety audits
- Property and liability hazard surveys
- Accident investigation training
- Graphical analysis
- Job hazard analysis

INFORM

Keeping your team members informed is essential to success. We'll help you:

- Develop a safety committee
- Provide educational resources
- Work with your management team to develop their skills and knowledge of regulations
- Address loss trends with training on key issues
- Open communications within your organization

MOTIVATE

The more safety is promoted in your workplace, the more motivated your team members will be to make safety a top priority. Whether you motivate with promotions, incentives or recognition, we'll help you develop a results-driven method to encourage safety at all times.

DTRIC's Risk Consulting Services team will work closely with you to create a program to effectively improve your bottom line.