



TODAY'S SAFETY TALK – TRAINING SESSIONS TO PREVENT INJURIES AND INCIDENTS

# TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

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## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Personal protective equipment, also called PPE, refers to equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, high-visibility vests, hearing protection and other pieces of wearable safety equipment. [*Instructor prompt: Ask the team for additional examples*].

PPE is often the last line of defense to prevent an injury in the workplace; however, it is only effective if used correctly and properly maintained. So please pay attention. Your health and safety are important to us; we don't want you to get hurt.

### **PPE Use**

As already mentioned, PPE is only effective if it is used correctly. Safety glasses won't help you if you have them on your forehead. There are many reasons people may not wear PPE, such as discomfort, wrong size, cleanliness, lost or missing, or simple inconvenience.

If the issue is comfort or size, please let [designee or your supervisor] know and work with you to find a size or style that is more comfortable. If you are unaware of where the required PPE is stored also, please see [designee or your supervisor], and we can make sure you know.

Keep your PPE clean and in good condition. If it becomes dirty or damaged, tell [designee or your supervisor], and we can get it cleaned or replaced.

As for inconvenience, remember the so-called inconvenience of using PPE is often far less than the inconvenience of an injury that could have been prevented by taking just a bit more time. The PPE is provided for a reason, and that reason is to help keep you safe. Choosing not to use it puts your health and future quality of life at risk. Don't put your friends, family and loved ones in that position. It can also put you in the position for potential disciplinary action.

### **PPE Training and Limitations**

Everyone should be familiar with how properly to wear, store and maintain their PPE. If anyone has any questions about their PPE, please talk to [designee or your supervisor] and find out.

PPE also does not make you invulnerable. You can still be seriously injured even if wearing and using PPE properly. PPE is the last line of defense, not the only line of defense. You must still follow safe work practices.

Not all PPE is designed to protect against all hazards. For example, gloves may be thick to protect hands from cuts and scrapes, but not be waterproof to protect against chemicals or leaks. Specific respirators may protect against particulates but be ineffective against chemicals. Be sure to know the limitations of whatever PPE you are currently using.

### **PPE Storage and Maintenance**

Always be familiar with manufacturer recommendations for storage, expiration and maintenance. Storing protective glasses in the open, for example, can get them covered with dirt and other contaminants that may limit vision or make wearing them uncomfortable. The same is true with respirators or other devices that are designed to filter irritants or hazardous objects.

Some forms PPE when stored in direct sunlight for extended periods may cause additional damage and decrease their effectiveness.

If multiple brands, styles, or manufacturers are used to supply PPE, it is important to be familiar with whatever is in use.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What activities do we do that require the use of PPE?
- What can we do to address damaged or missing PPE?
- How else can we encourage and remind people consistently to wear PPE?
- How do we know when to replace PPE?

# TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

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TOPIC(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature

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