

Safe Operating Procedure

(12/03)

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR SHOP WORKERS

Use personal protective clothing specified for the job. Each job is assessed for PPE needs and employees are provided the equipment needed. Make sure you are trained in the use and care of equipment. Keep PPE clean and in good condition and store it in a safe location away from potential contamination or damage when it is not being used.

- Generally, eye protection will be required for most maintenance work. The minimum eye protection is safety glasses with side-shields. If there is a risk of flying particles or debris, supplement safety glasses with a face-shield or use goggles and a face shield. If there is risk of chemical splash or a splash of material such as sewage or water with bacteria or mold, use chemical goggles.
- Gloves are also a basic protective item that should be used for many maintenance projects. The proper glove or gloves must be determined for the task to be done. Work gloves are a good idea for material handling to prevent cuts and splinters. If the project involves chemicals, a chemical resistant glove may be needed. If the work involves use of a knife or cutting tool, it may be advisable to use a wire mesh glove. The work glove should fit properly.
- If the area is extremely dirty, or asbestos or lead is present, or there is a biological hazard such as mold, disposable coveralls may be needed.
- Respiratory protection may be necessary if the work will involve airborne toxic chemicals, dust, or biological hazards such as mold spores.
- Hard hats are needed when working in areas where items may fall on top of you, for example when working below someone working on a ladder or scaffold. Bump caps are needed when working in low areas such as tunnel spaces or attics, or in areas with objects such as low pipes where you may bump your head.
- Hearing protection such as ear plugs or ear muffs are needed when working with noisy equipment or tools or working in a noisy location.