

ShopTalk

Personal
Protective
Equipment



What will we do today to prevent an incident?

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) are clothing or devices that workers wear to provide protection against visible or invisible hazards. Examples of PPE include hearing protection to reduce noise, high visibility vests to increase awareness or respirators to block particulate and gases from inhalation. In the hierarchy of controls, PPE is the final defense of protection for a worker. With higher level control measures, the hazard is removed, redesigned, substituted, or exposure is limited.

What's the hazard?

PPE protects workers from physical, biological, chemical, mineral hazards, or musculoskeletal injury. Hazards could be related to:

- working with chemicals that could damage the skin, eyes or lungs
- working in an environment where goods, tools or environment could bruise, crush or cut a worker
- loud work environments
- working in dangerous atmospheres
- working on water or ice
- bright light, heat or cold
- traffic or other powered equipment.

What can happen?

Jack Pine is an arborist and occasionally uses a chainsaw. Sometimes, he does not wear a face shield for quick cuts. Jack is cutting a branch and a small wood chip hits his eye.

Based on the scenario above, here are some questions that could be used to spark discussion:

1. How could this situation have been prevented?
2. Have you or anyone you know had material hit the eye? How could this injury have been avoided?
3. What PPE should employers provide for workers if they are using tools such as a chain saw?
4. What precautions can be taken to prevent a similar situation?

What precautions can be taken to prevent a similar situation?

Because there is a risk for injury when using tools such as a chainsaw:

- Workers must be trained on the safe use of a chainsaw. A Safe Work Procedure (SWP) must be developed (to be consistent with the manufacturer's instructions).
- Workers must be instructed to wear appropriate PPE, and the PPE must be supplied.
- The *employer* must ensure that workers understand and follow the SWP. *Workers* are responsible to comply with any procedures and use PPE required by the employer to stay safe.

Other resources:

Some additional **SAFE Work Manitoba** resources on Personal Protective Equipment include [Shop Talk – PPE: Eye and Face Protection, Bulletin 154: Eye and Face Protection, Bulletin 189: Protective Gloves, Bulletin 102: Protective Footwear, and Bulletin 199: Protective Headwear on Construction Project Sites](#)

Share your ideas!

If you have an idea for **Shop Talk** that you think others would benefit from, we'd like to hear about it.

Email us: information@safeworkmanitoba.ca.

For more information:

Visit safemanitoba.com or call **204-957-SAFE (7233)** or toll-free **1-855-957-SAFE (7233)**.