

PPE

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: The dangers arising from many hazardous activities can only be controlled by the use or wearing of PPE.

Why: In many cases it is not possible to completely eliminate hazards by other means.

Outline: This talk will cover the measures necessary to ensure that the use of PPE is effective.



What Is PPE?

- PPE is equipment or clothing worn to protect the user from known hazards in the workplace.
- In construction, the most commonly worn items of PPE are safety helmets and safety footwear.
- Other examples of PPE are respirators, safety harnesses, ear plugs, safety goggles, protective gloves and some clothing.

Limitations

- PPE will only protect the user.
- It must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; do not misuse PPE.
- The actual level of effectiveness is difficult to assess.
- It must be in good condition to be fully effective; do not mistreat PPE, your health or life might depend upon it.

Q: How much can your employer charge you for PPE?

What Your Employer Must Do

- Assess the risks to employees' health and safety arising from the work activities.
- Try to organise work activities so that PPE is not necessary.
- Where PPE is necessary, select appropriate items that suit the wearer and are made to the required standard.

NOTES

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PPE

- Supply employees with the necessary PPE at no cost.
- Train employees to use it, and explain its limitations where this is necessary.
- Ensure compatibility if more than one item of PPE is worn.
- Ensure that PPE is maintained where appropriate.
- Replace defective or lost PPE at no cost to the user..

Q: What factors will determine the life of a safety helmet?

What You Must Do

- Use PPE in accordance with instructions and training given.
- Return PPE to its accommodation, where provided, after use.
- Take reasonable care of your PPE and report its loss or defects to your employer.
- Not work without PPE when it is known to be necessary.
- Do not deface or change the structure of PPE. (I.e. cutting fingers off gloves or cut down hi-vis clothing).

Q: In which ways do you think that wearing PPE could increase the dangers to you?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you:

Q: What should you do if you find an item of your PPE is damaged?

Q: What should you look for on any item of PPE to confirm that it has been made to the required standard?

REMEMBER:

PPE CAN BE A LIFESAVER; USE IT PROPERLY AND LOOK AFTER IT AND IT CAN LOOK AFTER YOU

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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