

Personal Protective Equipment

1. Employee / Volunteer responsibilities:

- All agency employees and volunteers must be properly trained and know the hazards of the job and which type of personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed.
 - Refer to the Safety Training Modules (Volume 3) and the PPE Manual (volume 7) for more information on PPE requirements before performing any hazardous job duties.
 - When working with chemicals, review the MSDS for detailed chemical hazard information and PPE requirements.
- Inspect and care for your own PPE.
- Replace worn or defective PPE immediately.

2. General PPE Information:

- **Head Protection:**
 - Hardhats provide protection from fixed and falling objects, and can give protection from electrical shock.
 - Hardhats are to be worn when working around heavy equipment, logging and pruning operations, or when there is danger of falling objects.
- **Eye Protection: Shatterproof glasses, goggles, and face shields**
 - Eye protection is required when there is danger of materials contacting the eye. This includes splashing of hazardous chemicals, particles from grinding, drilling or sanding operations, dusts, potentially infectious materials from restroom cleaning, etc.

- **Hearing Protection: Earmuffs & Earplugs**

Noise over 85 decibels and high pitched noises can cause permanent damage to hearing. Always use hearing protection when operating motorized equipment or when there is exposure to impact or high pitch noises.

- **Respiratory Protection: Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) & dust masks**

- An air-purifying respirator (APR) is used to avoid breathing hazardous dusts, mists, vapors or gases.
- A simple dust mask is not an APR and should only be used when working in an environment with “nuisance” particulates
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- Employees issued an APR must complete a respirator medical questionnaire and receive medical clearance prior to being fit tested for an APR.
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- Employees issued an APR must receive an annual respirator fit test and receive annual training in the proper use, care and selection of respirators.
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- All tight-fitting APR’s must have a good facial seal and a pre-inspection is required prior to each use for any defective parts.

There are two main types of APR’s for applicable agency personnel:

1. Half-mask and full-face APRs
2. Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR)

**Remember that APR’s cannot supply you with oxygen; therefore you must be in a working environment with normal oxygen levels. Never wear your APR in oxygen-deficient atmospheres or to fight fires.*

- **Foot and Body Protection:**

Gloves, protective footwear (leather hiking shoes or boots with leather uppers), protective bodily clothing (long pants, long sleeve shirts, coveralls), chain saw chaps, etc.

- The skin and body is vulnerable to cuts, abrasions, burns, bruises, hazardous chemicals, insect bites and crushing actions. It is extremely important to choose the appropriate PPE at all times.

High visibility vests

Reflective or high visibility vests are required when working on or near roadways.

***Note:**

Employees working in the vicinity of hazardous work activities must also wear appropriate PPE, even if they are not operating any hazardous equipment. An example would be an employee assisting another employee operating a chainsaw.