PLEA HSE Awareness

Personal Protective Equipment
PPE in the Hierarchy of Control

The Hierarchy of Control helps you to choose the best way to fix the issue.

- **Elimination**
  - Replace hazardous equipment or implement a different process
  - If this is not practicable, then

- **Substitution**
  - Substitute the hazard with something less hazardous e.g. use a less toxic cleaning chemical
  - If this is not practicable, then

- **Engineering Controls**
  - Installing guards or automating a manual process
  - If this is not practicable, then

- **Admin**
  - Develop standard work procedures to minimise exposure to the hazard; training, programmed inspections/audits, signage, policies, record keeping
  - If this is not practicable, then

- **PPE**
  - Ensure personal protective equipment is used e.g. safety glasses, hearing protection, protective clothing and footwear, hard hats, face shields, gloves, high visibility vests.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specially designed to protect you...from head-to-toe.

What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**HEAD PROTECTION** – All “hardhats” provide protection from injury caused by falling objects.

(Electricians would use a specially designed hardhat that also would help to protect them from electrical shock.)
What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**FACE & EYE PROTECTION** - Safety glasses must be “ANSI approved” and it will have a “Z-87” number stamped on the glasses.

Remember, your *prescription glasses* are **NOT** safety glasses.

A face shield must be used over safety glasses if there is a chance that a hazardous chemical could splash onto your face.
What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**HEARING PROTECTION** – Hearing protection must be worn when the noise is so loud that it could hurt your hearing.

• If you work in noisy areas, you must wear hearing protection.
• You may need to use earplugs, earmuffs (or the combination of both in extremely noisy environments).
What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**BODY PROTECTION** - Long-sleeve shirts and full-length pants that are fire retardant help to protect you from burns.

Chemical resistant suits may be required for spills or when handling chemicals.
What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**FOOT PROTECTION** –
• Safety shoes and boots protect your foot from injuries that would be caused by things dropping on or cutting the foot.
• A chemical resistant boot may be needed for some jobs.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION** –
You must wear respiratory protection if the air in your work area may become hazardous to breathe.
What part(s) of the body are protected by using PPE?

**FALL PROTECTION** - You must use personal fall protection when you must work six feet or more above the ground. This minimum height may be different at different work locations.

**HAND PROTECTION** - Rubber gloves protect you from electrical shock. Neoprene or latex gloves protect the hands from certain chemicals. There are many other kinds of gloves. You must know exactly what the dangers are before you can choose the right hand protection.
What You Must Know About Your PPE

• If you are required to use any PPE, you will be trained. You will learn how it will protect you, how to wear it, store it, clean it, and inspect it.

• You must understand all of the manufacturers’ warnings and limitations of your PPE before you use it.

• You must inspect your equipment and ensure it is clean and not damaged -EVERY TIME YOU USE IT.
What You Must Know About Your PPE

• PPE has adjustable parts and comes in a variety of sizes so that it will be “reasonably” comfortable. You must know how to adjust it so that it fits properly.

• PPE that does not fit cannot protect you the way it should.

• If you are not sure what PPE you need for your job, check your work permit. If you still have doubts, check with your supervisor.