

Safety Newsletter
Aug. 2009

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

One of the most important areas of training is, the proper use and wearing of PPE. It doesn't sound like a difficult training session, but there is more to it than just putting on safety equipment for a particular job. We should do a "Job Hazard Analysis", before performing a job and see if there is a hazard involved. If there is, we need to either remove or isolate the hazard or see what other methods we may use to protect ourselves from the hazard. If the job requires wearing PPE to protect us from certain hazards, we need to be sure to follow some basic procedures.

Different areas on our body we may need to protect could include eyes, ears, head, hands, feet, and any other areas that could be exposed to a hazard while doing a job. Personal Protective Equipment should be just like it says, *personal*.

The equipment should fit the user to allow the user mobility while at the same time protecting the user from a hazard.

Some areas to pay attention to when using PPE are as follows;

- Will it give me the protection I need?
- Does it fit properly?
- Can I perform my job while wearing it?
- Has the equipment been visually inspected properly by the user and found to be in useable condition?
- We should also read and follow manufactures instructions when using safety equipment.

Remember to be sure and take the time to wear the proper equipment, as it could be the best time you ever spent. We can have the best equipment in the world and be trained properly, but if we don't wear it.....

Be Safe, Jim Rossman