

Respiratory Protection

Did you know that some “dust masks” are considered respirators and must be included in a respiratory safety program?



New types of “form fitting” respiratory protection such as “N-95” masks are NIOSH-approved “respirators” and, therefore, must be part of a respiratory protection plan that includes:

- **written procedures**,
- **medical physicals** to ensure the wearer is medically cleared to wear them,
- **fit tests and fit checks** to ensure a good seal around the face, and
- **proper training** to ensure users know the uses and limitations of the equipment.

PPE Hazard Assessment

Did you know that the OSHA regulation for PPE in shops (General Industry)* requires that companies have a comprehensive, written hazard assessment of the workplace?

The purpose of the hazard assessment is to **identify hazards** that can be protected by use of PPE and provides a logical assessment of the proper PPE required for each task. **Employee involvement** in the assessment is encouraged, since they know the tasks very well.

For example, look at the photo on the front cover. *Can you identify all the PPE?* All the PPE shown in this welding task should be listed in a written hazard assessment.

**Federal OSHA may expand this requirement to construction jobsites and several states already require it on jobsites.*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Did You Know...?

Did you know that providing PPE should be the second choice to protect workers?

It is best to look for opportunities to totally isolate or eliminate hazards through “engineering controls.”



This pamphlet provides discussion points for toolbox talks and other training sessions.



Produced through the SMACNA/OSHA Alliance.

Eye Protection

Did you know that eye injuries are a costly yet preventable injury?

Eye injuries are caused by a number of sources including ***particles and dust*** such as metal chips while drilling or grinding, ***chemicals*** such as solvents or corrosives, and ***light rays*** from arc welding or lasers.

Eye protection includes glasses with side shields, goggles, chemical splash shields, and welding helmets.

According to Prevent Blindness America, more than 2,000 people injure their eyes at ***work each day!***

The best protection against eye injuries is to ***wear proper eye protection.***

Eye protection won't help if it remains on your tool bench or in the truck of your car...wear it.

Hand Protection

Did you know that cuts are the most common injury in the sheet metal industry?*

Cuts happen way too often in the sheet metal industry, yet many cuts could be avoided with proper PPE.



- The best protection against cuts is ***wearing proper gloves.***
- Protective gloves should be comfortable to wear while not limiting the “feel” of the work or task.
- Gloves should not create another hazard, such as getting caught in moving parts of machinery.

**according to the annual SMACNA Safety Awards survey program.*

Hearing Protection

Did you know that hearing loss is a “hidden” injury that often doesn’t show up until years after exposure.

Hearing loss is known as a health hazard (versus a safety hazard) and, like many health hazards, is often ignored until it is too late. Just because you don’t feel the immediate affects (like bumping your head), it doesn’t mean that an injury has not occurred.

There are many sources of high noise in the sheet metal industry, and wearing proper PPE is a good safeguard to avoid hearing loss.

Do you know the high noise areas in your workplace?

Do You Wear Hearing Protection When Needed?