



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Prepare** Location? Distractions? Talk aids?
- 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?

1. PPE is equipment or clothing worn to protect the user from known hazards in the workplace.
2. In construction the most commonly worn items of PPE are safety helmets and safety footwear.
3. Other examples of PPE are respirators (face masks), safety harnesses, ear-plugs, eye protection, protective gloves and also some forms of clothing.

Limitations

1. PPE will only protect the user.
2. It must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; do not misuse PPE.
3. It is only effective if used properly.
4. 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

1. Assess the risks to employees' health and safety arising from the work activities.
2. Try to organise work activities so that PPE is not necessary.
3. Where PPE is necessary, select appropriate items that suit the wearer and are made to the required standard.
4. Supply employees with the necessary PPE at no cost.
5. Train employees to use it, and explain its limitations where this is necessary.
6. Ensure compatibility if more than one item of PPE is worn.
7. Ensure that PPE is maintained where appropriate.
8. 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

1. Use PPE in accordance with instructions and training given.
2. Return PPE to its storage, where provided, after use.
3. Take reasonable care of your PPE and report its loss or defects to your employer.
4. Never work without PPE when it is known to be necessary.

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 life-saver; use it properly and look after it and it should look after you

