

Personal Protective Equipment

OHBA Safety Pages

The major types of personal protective equipment (PPE) are head, eye, face, hearing, respiratory, foot and hand protection. According to the OR-OSHA rules, the “employer must assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) or other protective equipment. If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer must select, and have each affected employee use the types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment.” An employer cannot simply make PPE available and let employees choose whether or not to wear it. You must require the proper equipment be worn whenever there is exposure to hazards that were identified in the hazard assessment. The following list describes the major types of PPE. Make sure that you have enough equipment to protect all employees.

HEAD PROTECTION: Proper head protection must be worn whenever there is the exposure to head injury from impact or from falling or flying objects. Typical situations that would require head protection include the threat of accidentally dropped materials or equipment when employees work below other workers. Employees working beneath cranes that are moving material should also wear head protection. **OSHA Rule: Division 3, Subdivision E, 1926.100.**

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION: Eye protection, in the form of safety glasses or goggles, needs to be worn whenever there is the danger of flying objects that could get in the eye. Face protection, in the form of face shields, needs to be worn when there is a need to protect the entire face against flying sparks, liquid chemical products and debris. Many eye injuries occur when workers use saws without the required protection, so make sure that all employees have safety glasses or face shields and are wearing them when needed. **OSHA Rule: Division 3, Subdivision E, 1926.102.**

HEARING PROTECTION: Hearing protection, such as earplugs or earmuffs, must be worn whenever there is exposure to loud noises such as power saws and other loud equipment. While exposure to loud noises may not result in an immediate injury, years of exposure can lead to hearing loss. It’s not worth losing your hearing when you can protect yourself with inexpensive earplugs. **OSHA Rule: Division 3, Subdivision E, 1926.101. Also Subdivision D, Occupational noise exposure, 1926.52.**

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: Respirators or dust masks need to be worn when there is exposure to harmful dust, gasses or fumes. Dust masks offer good protection against the dust created by sanding operations. Some chemicals, however, create hazardous gasses or fumes that require the protection of respirators. If you are using respirators, be aware that the OR-OSHA code has additional requirements and rules that you must follow. **OSHA Rule: Division 3, Subdivision E, 1926.103.**

FOOT PROTECTION: Be sure that all employees have the proper type of foot protection for the work that they are doing. While a finish carpenter might not need anything more than tennis shoes, workers who are involved in the framing of the house need foot protection against nails and falling materials. **OSHA Rule: Division 2, Subdivision I, 1910.136.**

FALL PROTECTION: Fall protection is required when workers are exposed to a hazard of falling 10 feet (Construction 10’ with some trigger heights at 6’ — in General Industry the requirement is at 6 feet) or more to a lower level. The employer must ensure that fall protection systems are provided, installed, and implemented. **OSHA Rule: Division 3, Subdivision M, 1926.500.**

HIGH VISIBILITY GARMENTS: High visibility vests or similar type clothing is required to protect workers from street or highway traffic, either on existing streets or highways or when working in construction work zones along streets or highways. **OR-OSHA Rule: OAR 437-002-0128.**

Employers must also maintain a regular system of inspections and maintenance of personal protective equipment. The equipment must be kept clean and sanitary, and should be inspected by each worker at the beginning of his/her shift.



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member’s property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Project Name: _____ Location: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
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7.		
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11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: _____

Supervisor: _____
(Signature)