

PPE: LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

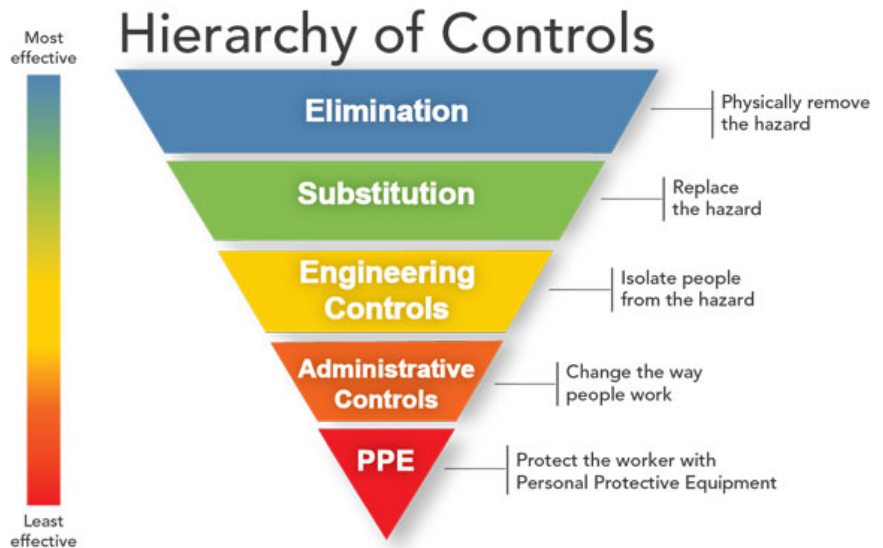
Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is designed to protect personnel from workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, biological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other hazards in the workplace. General types of PPE include hard hats, safety glasses, earplugs, respirators and safety shoes.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS

The last line of defense in the **hierarchy of controls** (pictured right) for hazards in the workplace is personal protective equipment (PPE), the other controls have not eliminated or mitigated the hazard to a level of acceptable risk for the worker's exposure.

PPE is often essential, due to some nature of risk to the person handling equipment or performing task. The other controls are recommended, but not always practical or feasible depending on the task, frequency of task, or environment.

Supervisors must be knowledgeable of the activities performed by employees to ensure the appropriate PPE is available for employees. Employees also need to communicate with supervisors when they encounter unexpected or previously unrecognized hazards during their course of work.







Source: [NIOSH](#)





HOW & WHEN TO WEAR PPE

- **SELECTION:** Choosing the correct type of PPE must be performed in collaboration between the supervisor and employee to ensure that the PPE is documented for the specific hazard.
- **TRAINING:** Education for PPE must include; where to obtain PPE, wearing PPE, the limitations of PPE, and other controls in place associated with the task or activity to minimize risks or hazards.
- **FIT:** The proper fit of the equipment is crucial for protection, if the equipment is too tight or too loose, it can cause additional problems. Check with supervisors or peers for proper fit of PPE.
- **INSPECTION:** Visually inspecting the equipment for defects or deficiencies. If there is a defect, take the PPE out of service until repaired or replaced.
- **MAINTENANCE:** Dirt, dust, and other materials can degrade and/or interfere with intended use of PPE. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations (check online) for cleaning PPE.
- **STORAGE:** Do not leave your PPE out to collect dust or debris. Temperature, humidity, moisture, use, and sunlight of PPE all are factors in the shelf life of PPE.
- **REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL:** When defects or deficiencies are found, do not use PPE. Remove the equipment from service and obtain new equipment.

IT'S NOT PPE IF IT DOESN'T FIT.

PPE PICTOGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED USES

PPE Pictograms				
Body Part	Eye Protection	Ear Protection	Head Protection	Face Protection
Types of PPE	Safety glasses and goggles	Ear plugs and muffs	Hard hat and hair nets	Faceshields and masks
Hazards (where when these hazards are present)	Chemical splashes (goggles, not glasses), dusts, projectiles, gases/vapors, lasers, radiation	Noise – combination of sound level and duration of exposure. Very high-level sounds can be hazardous at short duration.	Impacts from flying or falling objects, overheard bump hazards, potential for hair to enter food while preparing or serving	Chemical splashes, flying projectiles, sparks, radiation

PPE Pictograms				
Body Part	Hand Protection	Body Protection	Respiratory Protection	Feet Protection
Types of PPE	Gloves (nitrile, leather, Kevlar, rubber, puncture resistant)	Lab coats, high visibility vest, overalls, flame-retardant, rain gear	Dust masks, N-95 respirators, half/full mask respirators	Safety toed shoes or boots, anti-slip shoes, rain boots, penetration-resistant closed-toe shoes
Hazards (where when these hazards are present)	Abrasion, temperatures, cuts & punctures, impacts, chemicals, shock, vibration, and biological agents	Heat, cold, chemical or metal splash, spray hazards, contaminated dusts, impact or penetration, working in low visibility or high traffic areas	Dusts, vapors, mists, or gases. Oxygen deficient atmospheres (self-contained breathing apparatus)	Falling objects, roll over toes hazards (vehicles or carts), cold/wet conditions, slipping, cuts and punctures, chemical splashes

Note This PPE Chart is not a conclusive list components; there are many more hazards which could require the use of additional PPE. This list is to be used as a reference for personnel in their areas or activities at HSU.