Toolbox Talk

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Acorn Health & Safety Ltd

Purpose / objectives

This talk discusses the measures necessary to ensure that the use of PPE is effective

Hazards / risks



In some cases, it is not possible to adequately control hazards. PPE is therefore used as the last line of defence

Some dangers arising from hazardous activities can **only** be controlled by the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

What is PPE?

- PPE is clothing or other equipment, worn / used to protect you from known workplace hazards
- In construction, the most commonly worn items of PPE are safety footwear, safety helmets / hard hats, eye protection and high visibility (Hi-Vis), clothing
- Other examples of PPE include respiratory protective equipment (RPE), fall prevention / arrest safety harnesses, earplugs, various types of protective gloves and also some clothing

Limitations	PPE will only protect the person using/wearing it
	It must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and any training provided. Incorrect use may result in the PPE providing only limited protection, or not providing any protection at all
	The level of protection provided is difficult to determine, as it depends on how well it fits the individual wearing or using the PPE
	The PPE must be in good condition to be fully effective; do not mistreat it, your health, or your life might depend upon it

What must your employer do?



- Assess the risks to your health and safety from the work activities you undertake
- Try to control risks by other means other than by PPE – PPE should be used as a last resort
- Provide appropriate items of PPE that suit the wearer, where PPE is necessary
- Supply you with all necessary PPE free of charge
- Provide training in how to use your PPE, explain any limitations and explain the implications of not using
- Ensure different types of PPE are compatible if more than one item of PPE must be worn
- Ensure that PPE is maintained and replace defective or lost PPE, at no cost to you
- Ensure all workers have the required PPE including casual workers

What must you do?

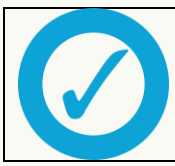


- Use your PPE in accordance with any instructions and training provided
- Return PPE to its storage after use, where provided
- Take reasonable care of your PPE and report loss or any damage to your employer
- When you know PPE is necessary, never work without it

Questions?



- How much can your employer charge you for PPE?
- What factors will determine the life of the safety helmet?
- How do you think wearing PPE could increase the dangers to you?
- What should you do if you find an item of your PPE is damaged?
- Where should you store your PPE?



PPE can be a life saver. Look after your PPE and it will look after you

Toolbox Talk Confirmation Sheet

I have read/been given the “Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)” **Toolbox Talk**. I understand that it is my responsibilities and the importance of bringing any concerns to the attention of my manager/supervisor and that all work **MUST** be undertaken in line with company policy and supporting risk assessments.

Name	Signature	Date