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SIP-TIP: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Suppose you walk into a dark room. Even if you have been in this room before, you're likely to bump into something. The obvious solution to this dilemma is to find the switch on the wall and, then, bathe the room in light. Now, we can perform a hazard assessment of the room. A similar process must take place on any safe job. Whether we are on a construction site, in a factory, or at home in the garage, each job that ends safely begins with good hazard assessment.



HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Assessment means evaluation and **hazard** means danger. Simply put, we evaluate danger. But the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA's) definition is more focused. Hazard assessment means that a workplace is evaluated to determine if hazards are present, which would necessitate the use of PPE. The assessment must be verified in writing.

POSSIBLE HAZARDS IN WORK AREA INCLUDE:



- **Eye hazards** - Projectiles, dusts, chemical splashes, molten metals, and light radiation.
- **Hand hazards** - Heat, cuts, abrasions, punctures, and contact with dangerous chemicals.
- **Head hazards** - Falling objects, projectiles, low headroom or sharp edges overhead.
- **Foot hazards** - Falling or rolling objects (crushing), chemical contact, puncture.
- **Noise hazards** - Consistently loud noises, impulse noises.
- **Fall hazards** - Falls from a higher level to a lower level, walking working surfaces.
- **Respiratory hazards** - Dusts, harmful vapors in excessive quantities, lack of oxygen.

Once you identify a hazard, the first and the best option is to remove it. If this is not feasible, administratively limit the employees' exposure to these conditions. If limiting the time or the way the task is performed cannot control the employees' exposure to these conditions, then consider PPE.

Once the proper PPE is selected understanding the facts about PPE, such as, when and what PPE necessary. How to properly put on, take off, and adjust PPE. What is the limitations of PPE (when it won't protect you), proper care and maintenance.

REMEMBER: NO PPE IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT AGAINST ALL HAZARDS. SO, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE UNPROTECTED. EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS, YOUR SUPERVISOR OR SAFETY MANAGERS ARE GOOD SOURCE FOR THIS INFORMATION.