

# NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

March 2015

## PLAY IT SAFE: HAND AND EYE PROTECTION

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is integral to the job at hand. To prevent injuries, keep you safe and get the job done effectively, follow these tips for proper hand and eye protection.

### Hazard Assessment

Employers must perform a hazard assessment of the jobs their employees perform to determine the potential hazards. Once identified, select the correct type of PPE for each job. To ensure proper use of PPE, all equipment should be discussed and demonstrated with employees. Remember: improper use of safety equipment can be just as dangerous as not using it.

### Eye Protection

- Wear American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved safety glasses or face shields when welding, cutting, nailing, working with concrete, or working with harmful chemicals. (ANSI approved glasses will typically have a marking on the inside of the frame.)
- Always inspect your PPE before use. Replace poorly fitting or damaged glasses and face shields as soon as possible. Never use PPE that has been compromised.
- If you need corrective lenses you must wear ANSI approved safety glasses with prescription lenses, or ANSI approved goggles to fit over your regular prescription glasses.

### Hand Protection

- Always wear the right gloves for the job. If you are unsure of which type of gloves to use, check the Safety Data Sheets for detailed information, or ask your supervisor.
- Ensure that your gloves fit snugly. Do not use gloves that are too large.
- Always inspect gloves before use. Check for cuts, tears or other deterioration. Discolored gloves may indicate excessive wear or age.
- Never use petroleum-based products (like Vaseline) under your gloves. These products can trap chemicals against your skin.

### Alert Your Supervisor If:

- You feel the PPE selected for use is not adequate to protect you while doing your job.
- There is a non-routine task that may have been overlooked when conducting the PPE hazard assessment.
- You know of a new task involving new equipment or chemicals that you believe may call for PPE that has not yet been approved.

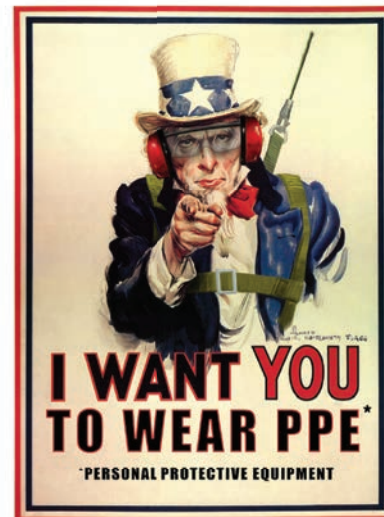


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### Remember

- Although using PPE may not always be the most convenient, fashionable or desirable: PPE prevents injuries that not only affect your job but also your personal life. Play it safe!

### Contact Us

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Keep a copy of this bulletin in your Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) binder and be sure employees receive a copy.