

VPP Porcelain Press

Issue 24, September 11, 2002



Personal Protective Equipment – PPE Protects!

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your last line of defense for preventing some types of injuries, especially to the eyes and skin. PPE includes

- **eye protection** such as safety glasses, side shields, goggles, and face shields
- **hand protection**, such as chemical resistant gloves and leather gloves
- **foot protection, protective clothing, respiratory protection, etc.**

At PNNL, requirements for PPE are provided in the “Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment” subject area (<http://sbms.pnl.gov/standard/0b/0b00t010.htm>).

Factors to consider when selecting PPE include

- Is the set of PPE **appropriate for the job?** (Is PPE provided for all “target organs” including eyes, skin, and the respiratory system?)
- Will each item of PPE **provide adequate protection** from the anticipated hazard? (For example, will the eye protection work for splashed liquids vs. projectiles?)
- Does the PPE **fit the individual?** (Most items of PPE come in different sizes to accommodate different users.) (38817)
- Is the PPE **clean and ready for use?** (Most use of PPE involves personal sanitation issues, and sometimes PPE, such as a respirator, needs regular maintenance to work effectively.)

Will the use of PPE **cause other problems?** (Such problems might include significant discomfort, prolonged exposure to the hazard, or poor cost benefit.)

Staff must know the correct PPE for each task, and that they reliably and effectively use the PPE.

- You must **follow all postings and procedural/permit requirements** related to PPE. (3J074)
- You must **wear eye protection when performing tasks that include eye hazards.** Safety glasses provide minimal protection from objects that could impact the eyes from in front of you. If there is a chance that objects can approach from the side, wear safety glasses with **side shields or goggles.** For **splash hazards, wear goggles with hooded vents** to prevent liquids from dripping into your eyes.
- You must **wear gloves that are suitable for the hazard** when working with materials that could result in hand injury or contact with skin absorption hazard. **Leather or kevlar gloves** can **prevent mechanical injury** like cuts and abrasions. **Latex** is suitable for **many dusts and aqueous solutions.** Use **chemical-specific gloves** for hazardous chemicals that can be **absorbed through skin.** Each type of glove will work for certain chemicals, but not all. **Contact your Safety and Health Representative** or consult the applicable Chemical Use Documentation provided by the glove manufacturer/vendor to determine the appropriate type of glove. (3A434)

Recipe for Celebrating Pollution Prevention Week

September 15 – 21, 2002

- Identify **one way to reduce waste** on the job.
- **Share that idea** with the P2 team.
- **Sign up for a Watt Stopper** to conserve energy (<http://wattstopper.pnl.gov>).
- Celebrate energy conservation knowing **the Lab is purchasing wind power** during this week, which means 13.7% of our power in FY03 will be from a sustainable source.
- If a Benton County resident, **recycle obsolete electronic equipment** at the Tri-Cities Coliseum parking lot, Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Call 942-7387 for details.