



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
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Occupational Safety & Health Environmental Health Laboratory Safety Industrial
Hygiene Radiation Safety Hazardous Waste Pollution Prevention

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

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Environmental Health & Safety Office

Personal Protective Equipment (hereafter referred to as PPE) is equipment worn to minimize worker exposure from workplace hazards, such as chemical, physical, radiological, electrical, mechanical, or other factors. PPE may include items such as gloves, safety shoes, safety glasses, earplugs, hard hats, respirators, vests, coveralls, etc.

PPE is required when other control methods are unable to reduce the hazard to safe levels (see Figure 1). PPE is only effective when worn correctly and consistently. Employees who are required to wear PPE must be trained on its use and maintenance to ensure ongoing effectiveness. Employers are required to supply PPE to employees when it is required. The use of PPE should not limit efforts to eliminate hazards through engineering design, administrative controls, or the substitution of less hazardous materials.

When necessary, an assessment of the workplace should be performed to determine if hazards are present, or likely to be present, that require the use of PPE. This is called a Job Safety Analysis (Appendix 1). The job safety analysis should be completed by the appropriate department's management, and then sent to the ODU Environmental Health & Safety Office for review and approval. If it is determined that PPE is required, affected employees will be provided properly fitting PPE. Job safety analyses must be documented, dated, signed by the assessor, and maintained by the applicable department. Job safety analyses should be reviewed periodically or whenever job conditions change in a way that may impact the use of PPE.

Each employee that is required to wear PPE shall be trained on the following:

- When PPE is necessary
- What PPE is necessary
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE
- The limitations of the PPE
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE

The affected employee's supervisor and/or department management is responsible for ensuring that affected employees receive the required training for their job functions. Safety training may include classroom and/or online training. Training documentation shall include topics covered, attendance, and dates provided. Managers are encouraged to utilize the University's safety training software, [SafeColleges](#).

Employees shall be retrained when changes in the workplace or changes to PPE render previous training obsolete, or if the employee's knowledge or use of PPE deem that retraining is needed. The ODU Environmental Health & Safety Office provides oversight for training programs and training records.

Required personal protective equipment, except for safety shoes and prescription safety glasses, must be supplied by the applicable department at no cost to the affected employee.

All PPE must be approved, prior to use, by the ODU Environmental Health & Safety Office to ensure that it meets OSHA requirements.

PPE should be inspected prior to each use for tears, leaks, punctures, breaks, contamination, or signs of wear. Do not use damaged or defective PPE. Store PPE in a safe and clean location when not in use. Employees are responsible for wearing and properly maintaining PPE.

Departments are responsible for creating and maintaining standard operating procedures (SOPs) that detail how to safely perform work involving specific hazards. The Environmental Health & Safety Office website includes SOPs that may be used by campus personnel - [EH&S Fact Sheets page](#)

Hazard Specific Programs – The following programs include PPE requirements.

[ODU Biosafety Manual](#)

[Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan](#)

[Chemical Hygiene Plan](#)

[Respiratory Protection Program](#)

[Hearing Conservation Program](#)

For questions or to request technical assistance



Environmental Health & Safety Office

Sequence of Job Steps:	Potential Hazard:	HT (#)	PPE & Control Measures
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			