



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

What is PPE?

It stands for **P**ersonal **P**rotective **E**quipment. Items that are worn on your body to protect from injury or illness when engineering and workplace controls are not enough. For example, you must wear eye protection when grinding. Even though the tool's guard & positioning your work where debris is thrown away helps, it does not completely eliminate the potential for some debris to still get in your eyes.

Which PPE is Needed?

Each of your work task should be evaluated to determine if PPE is even necessary or if the risk can be eliminated without the use of PPE. To help get started you may use this PPE Hazard Assessment checklist which is grouped by body part effected.
<https://www.mafes.msstate.edu/safety/pdfs/PPE%20Haz%20Assessment.pdf> .

There is a huge variety of options for PPE and can quickly get overwhelming. If you are unsure or would like help with determining which PPE is best for your work task, don't hesitate to ask for help from a safety professional.

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To help ensure usage of PPE:

- Keep PPE easily accessible and an extra supply of items that will need to be replaced often.
- Store PPE close by in the shop, office, lab, work truck or in close location where it is needed. If you have to hunt for it every time, you are more apt to not use it.
- Choose PPE you like. Comfort, fit, & styles are optional and help encourage its use.

For affective PPE use have a clear understanding about ...

- Which specific PPE is required for the job task.
- Where to obtain PPE – initial and replacement.
- How to inspect PPE for damage and identify when replacement is necessary.
- How to clean/disinfect as necessary and store PPE.
- How to wear, adjust, and use PPE for proper fitment and protection.
- Limitations of that particular PPE.



Sources:

<https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment>
www.grainger.com