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HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Determining and evaluating job site hazards that exist, or are likely to exist, is “hazard assessment” and it is the initial step in the selection process designed to protect our employees from possible eye, hand, foot, limb, or head injury through the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Impact; penetration; compression; chemical; heat; harmful dust; light radiation -- what do these items have in common? They are basic hazard categories which must be identified and their dangers negated through engineering controls and/or PPE selection. If feasible, engineering controls are preferable to PPE because they are passive and do not take active involvement by the affected employee.

If engineering controls are ruled out, PPE selection is made by analyzing and evaluating the type of risk, the level of risk, the potential for injury and the possible seriousness of that injury and matching those factors with PPE which is compatible with the risks and work situation.

Once hazard assessment and PPE selection have been made, all affected employees are informed of the proper PPE to be used during specific jobs on the job site.

Employees will be given training which explains:

- 1) When PPE is necessary
- 2) What PPE is necessary
- 3) How to properly put on, take off, adjust, and wear PPE
- 4) The limitations of the PPE
- 5) The proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE.

Should new hazards be introduced to the job site such as new equipment or procedures, additional PPE and training may be necessary.

Because PPE is required by virtue of an identified hazard that exists due to the physical layout of the job site, the specific work that must be accomplished on the job site, or the required method of accomplishing that job, the requirement for PPE will apply to all persons exposed to that hazard whether they be management, visitors, or employees.

The requirement for a PPE Program which would include hazard assessment and PPE selection; documented training; and the written certification of hazard assessment applies specifically to General Industry. However, there is nothing to preclude an employer whose operations are governed by the Construction standards from taking advantage of the many benefits of having a PPE Program which consolidates the various individual PPE requirements required of the Construction Industry and places them into one workable, comprehensive program.