Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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TOOLBOX TALKS

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment or PPE is designed to very specific standards. Make sure the PPE you use provides proper protection from hazards like concrete chips when drilling or hammering, and hard hats when working around overhead hazards.

- ✓ Always look over your PPE before using for any damage or unusual wear before wearing it.
- ✓ Make sure you wear the right PPE for the job, like safety glasses to protect your eyes and a face shield for flying debris.
- ✓ Use only rated PPE when working with electricity.
- ✓ Do not use sunglasses in place of ANSI approved safety glasses.
- ✓ Most prescription eyewear does not meet the requirements for safety glasses.
- ✓ Know where to find the approval marking on PPE.
- ✓ Ask for replacement PPE for damage or lost equipment.
- ✓ Your employer must cover the cost of PPE used on the job, except in the case of intentional misuse or abuse, or when the PPE is not used solely at work.

Note: Discuss the rules for PPE use in your company.

This information has been developed by MOSH Consultation in good faith with the intent to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. This information must be understood as tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards.