



Personal Protective Equipment

Does your job require you to wear a hard hat or safety goggles? How about fall protection or a face shield? If you're unsure about any of these questions, then today's training is just for you.

Many jobs at Ahern Rentals require you to wear personal protective equipment, or PPE for short. Everyone from drivers to yard personnel to mechanics must wear some type of PPE. Even employees who don't normally wear PPE may find themselves in a situation where it's required. For this reason, it's important to know what PPE is, when to wear it, and how to inspect it for damage.

What is PPE?

Personal protective equipment is used to help keep you safe from potentially hazardous situations. OSHA requires employers to conduct a hazard assessment of your workplace to identify any of these safety hazards. If they find any safety hazards that cannot be eliminated completely, your employer is required to provide you with PPE. But remember, PPE does not eliminate hazards. It just reduces your exposure to them.

There are many different types of PPE, and each is used for different reasons. Some types of PPE include:

- Hard hats
- Safety goggles
- Face shields
- Fall protection
- Gloves
- Aprons
- Hearing protection
- Respirators

Now let's take a moment to talk about a few different types of PPE.

Hard Hats

First, a hard hat is used to protect you from potential head injuries. If you work in any area that has the potential for falling objects, you must wear a hard hat. Drivers, salespeople, and mechanics who work at busy job sites must wear a hard hat at worksites that require them. All employees must wear hard hats in designated hard hat areas.

There are two different types of hard hats: Type I and Type II. Ahern Rentals uses Type I, which helps reduce the force of an impact at the top of a person's head. For protection against electrical hazards, Ahern uses Class G hard hats. These provide voltage protection for up to 2200 volts.

As you use your hard hat, do not alter it in any way as this may make it unsafe to use. Remember, talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about when, where, or what type of hard hat you should use.

Eye Protection

Eye protection must be used anywhere your eyes can be exposed to potential injuries. For example, if you work with chemicals or in an area with flying debris, you must use eye protection. There are different types of eye protection available, including safety glasses, safety goggles, and face shields.

You must wear safety glasses with side shields any time you're drilling, chipping, driving nails, riveting or completing similar tasks. Along with the glasses, you must wear a face shield if you're handling chemicals or corrosive liquids, or if you're chiseling or grinding.

Welders must wear a welding shield with the appropriate color density for the type of job they are performing. Also, anyone assisting a welder must wear the same type of eye protection.

If you wear prescription glasses, use goggles that can fit over your lenses or ask for frames and lenses that meet ANSI standards when you order your prescription. Finally, be sure to let your supervisor know if you wear contact lenses.

PPE comes in a variety of different types, and the kind you use depends on the job you perform and the environment you're working in. If you have any concerns about the type of PPE you are required to wear talk to your supervisor.

Inspecting your PPE

When using PPE, make sure it's in good condition and it fits properly. Do not use PPE that is damaged or defective in any way. Remember to inspect your PPE before each use.

Hard Hats

When using a hard hat, remember these guidelines:

- Make sure your hard hat is not too large or too small.
- Ensure the headband assembly is in good condition.
- Do not use any accessories on your hard hat unless they are approved by the manufacturer.
- Check for cracks, holes, tears or any other damage

Footwear

Check all protective footwear prior to each use. Look for:

- Cracks
- Holes
- Broken buckles or laces
- Metal or any other object embedded in the shoe

Gloves

When using gloves, check for tears or holes. A discolored or stiff glove might indicate the glove has been used too often or has been worn out from chemical exposure.

Eye Protection

When using eye protection, follow these guidelines:

- Make sure it fits properly and comfortably.
- Ensure your eye protection does not restrict your vision or movement.
- Make sure it's clean and undamaged
- Check for cracks, holes and any other damage

For all PPE, check for damage and anything that may make it unsafe to use. Do not use any PPE that is broken or damaged. If you have any questions about how your PPE is supposed to look or fit, talk to your supervisor.

All PPE is available for check out at the Parts counter. To replace worn or damaged PPE, you must bring the damaged equipment back to the Parts counter to obtain a replacement. Finally, remember that you must bring back all PPE at the end of each work day.

Whenever your job requires PPE you must wear it. Personal protective equipment helps minimize your exposure to potential injuries.

When using PPE:

- Check its condition before each use.
- Make sure it fits properly and comfortably.
- Ensure it is not damaged or defective in any way.

If you have any questions about PPE talk to your supervisor or call the Risk Management department.

Revision History

Rev.	Date	Change Description & Section	Approver/Contributor/Writer
002	Apr 2, 2008	No text changes made. Reused safety topic.	Abby Rotstein
001	Aug 24, 2007	Initial Release.	Rene Casas/Libby Craver/Abby Rotstein