

SAFETY

Company Name

Meeting Date

Employees Present:

SUBJECT OF THE MONTH: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Many workplace injuries occur because employees are not wearing the proper equipment needed to protect them from hazardous operations. OR-OSHA regulations also require that correct PPE be worn. At your safety meeting this month, discuss the types of work that you do and make sure that your employees' PPE use matches your jobsite hazards.

CHECKLIST ITEMS

- _____ Electrical Cords Checked & GFCI's to protect employees
- _____ Required Jobsite Postings:
(Emergency Phone #'s and "Safety & Health Protection on the Job" Poster)
- _____ Fall Protection
- _____ Emergency Medical Plan
- _____ Fire Protection/Prevention
- _____ Hazard Communication Program
- _____ Tool Guards
- _____ First Aid Kit

JOB SITE REVIEW: Inspection Notes/Concerns/Action Plan

Company Safety Officer: _____

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Home Builders Association Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the OHBA Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.



Safety Committee

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The major types of personal protective equipment (PPE) are head, eye, face, hearing, respiratory, foot and hand protection. According to the OR-OSHA rules, the employer is “responsible for requiring the wearing of personal protective equipment in all operations where there is an exposure to hazardous conditions.” An employer cannot simply make PPE available and let employees choose whether or not to wear it. You must require the proper equipment be worn whenever there is exposure to hazards. The following list describes the major types of PPE. Make sure that you have enough equipment to protect all employees.

HEAD PROTECTION: Proper head protection must be worn whenever there is the exposure to head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects. Typical situations that would require head protection include the threat of accidentally dropped materials or equipment when employees work below other workers. Employees working beneath cranes that are moving material should also wear head protection.

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION: Eye protection, in the form of safety glasses or goggles, needs to be worn whenever there is the danger of flying objects that could get in the eye. Face protection needs to be worn when there is a need to protect the entire face against flying sparks and debris. Many eye injuries occur when workers use saws without the required protection, so make sure that all employees have safety glasses or face shields and are wearing them when needed.

HEARING PROTECTION: Hearing protection, such as earplugs or earmuffs, must be worn whenever there is exposure to loud noises such as power saws and other loud equipment. While exposure to loud noises may not result in an immediate injury, years of exposure can lead to hearing loss. It’s not worth losing your hearing when you can protect yourself with inexpensive earplugs.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: Respirators or dust masks need to be worn when there is exposure to harmful dust, gasses or fumes. Dust masks offer good protection against the dust created by sanding operations. Some chemicals, however, create hazardous gasses or fumes that require the protection of respirators. If you are using respirators, be aware that the OR-OSHA code has additional requirements and rules that you must follow. OR-OSHA -- 503-378-3272.

FOOT PROTECTION: Be sure that all employees have the proper type of foot protection for the work that they are doing. While a finish carpenter might not need anything more than tennis shoes, workers who are involved in the framing of the house need foot protection against the nails and falling materials.

Employers must also maintain a regular system of inspections and maintenance of personal protective equipment. The equipment must be kept clean and sanitary, and should be inspected by each worker at the beginning of his/her shift.

