



6-minute safety talk for plumbing

Instructor Guide

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Topic Overview (why the topic is important to the students)

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is equipment and clothing designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** the different types of PPE used by plumbers, including hardhats, heat resistant clothing, safety boots, gloves, goggles and hearing protection, and how injuries can occur if PPE isn't used or is used incorrectly. Eye and hearing protection are discussed separately.
- **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out the hazards, and which type of PPE would be required for each.
- **Explain** that workers are responsible for providing their own clothing for protection against natural elements, such as work gloves, safety footwear, and safety headgear. All other PPE, such as hearing protection, eye and face protection, respirators, protective clothing, and specialty gloves are required to be provided by the employer.
- **Distribute** the student handout.
- **Review** the safety tips.
- **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the need for PPE (e.g., sound baffles, fume hood).
- **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience that resulted from lack or improper use of PPE, or use the following examples:
 - Wear flame-resistant clothing <http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/1999/ha9914.html>
 - Welders – protect your ears <http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/1995/ha9506.html>
- **Discuss** the attitude that “it won't happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about PPE.
- **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

Resources

- Regulation Part 8 <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part8.asp>
- OHS Guidelines Part 8 <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart8.asp>