

Northwest Missouri State University

Policy and Procedures Manual

Chapter Health and Safety
Equipment

Section Personal Protective

The use of personal protective equipment can enable employees to work in hazardous environments where engineering controls have not been implemented or are infeasible. The following guidelines for personal protective equipment are not considered to be all inclusive; any questions concerning personal protective equipment or other potentially hazardous exposure should be directed to the Health and Safety Manager (562-1475, 562-9595).

Protective Eyewear

Protective eyewear and face equipment are required by Missouri state law when there is a reasonable probability of an injury that can be prevented by such equipment. No unprotected person should be knowingly subjected to a hazardous environmental condition. Suitable eye protectors should be provided where machines or operations present the hazard of flying objects, glare, liquid, or a combination of these hazards.

Use of Protective Eyewear – Listed below are some of the activities in which protective eyewear should be worn:

- Working in a chemical laboratory.
- Mowing grass or cutting brush.
- Moving drums of corrosive materials.
- Sawing or cutting materials.
- Welding.
- Using cleaning materials such as cleaners, strong solvents, or other corrosive chemicals in cleaning facilities.

Note: The design, construction, testing and use of devices for eye and face protection shall be in accordance with the most recent version of the American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1.

Head Protection

Helmets for the protection of heads from impact and penetration from falling and flying objects and from limited electric shock and burn shall meet the requirements and specifications established in the most recent version and American National Standard Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection, Z89.1.

Foot Protection

Foot protection may be required where job conditions warrant.

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Use of Foot Protection – Listed below are some examples of work which may require foot protection:

- Warehouse operations.
- Moving operations involving heavy equipment.
- Work involving close contact with large animal.
- Jobs requiring work with certain chemicals.

Note: Safety toe footwear for employees shall meet the requirements and specifications of the latest version of American National Standard for Safety Toe Footwear, Z41.1.

Respiratory Protection

The use of respirators may be necessary to ensure adequate protection from dusts, fumes, mists or gases. Proper selection and fit are essential in assuring protection and are dependent on several factors.

Use of Respiratory Protection – Some activities requiring the use of respirators are:

- Handling chemicals.
- Working with pesticides.
- Painting and sanding operations.

Fit Testing and Training – Employees are required to undergo fit testing and training prior to wearing respirators. The level of protection and degree of training are dependent on the environmental hazards present. Contact Environmental Services (562-1181) for fit testing and training.

Hearing Protection

Specific types of protection will be required depending on the type and level of noise encountered.

Types of Hearing Protection – Example of hearing protection are:

- Premolded ear plugs.
- Disposable ear plugs.
- Ear muffs.

Arms, Hands, and Torso Protection

The selection of appropriate gloves and clothing depend on factors such as design, permeability and strength. Many chemicals will permeate or break through certain materials in relatively short periods of time, voiding the protection.

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Use of Protective Equipment – Examples of activities where such protection may be required include, but are not limited to:

- Working with chemicals.
- Asbestos abatement.
- Handling PCBs.
- Working with insulation.

Selection of Protective Clothing – Selection of protective clothing must be done in consultation with Environmental Services.

Other Protective Equipment

There may be specific area of work on campus that may create hazardous exposure to faculty, staff, students, or the general public. Any questions concerning hazardous working environments should be directed to Environmental Services.

Procuring Protective Equipment

Each operating unit is expected to fund, procure and initiate use of proper personal protective equipment. The Department of Environmental Services may be contacted to assist each operating unit in determining the correct personal protective equipment to assure a safe work environment.

Ordering Protective Devices – All protective devices must be ordered through Environmental Services to assure that the devices meet appropriate standards. If you have any questions, please call Environmental Services at 562-1181 or 1183.