

Face Protection

5-Minute Talk

Overview Of Topic

Many of the hazards which are faced on the job require the employee to protect his or her face from flying particles or metal or chemical splashes. Objects striking or chemical splashes to the face account for many injuries each year.

Face hazards

Injuries to the face can include burns from welding arcs or chemicals, broken bones or teeth from impacts, and cuts and scrapes from flying particles. Typical hazards which we must protect against include:

- Splashes from injurious liquids.
- Flying particles or objects.
- Burns from splashing metals.
- Heat, glare, and ultraviolet and infrared rays.
- Lasers.
- Electrical hazards.

Face protection must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Adequately protect against the particular hazards for which they are designed.
- Be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated conditions.
- Fit snugly without interfering with the movements or vision of the wearer.
- Be durable.
- Be capable of being disinfected.
- Be easily cleanable.
- Be kept in good repair.

Anytime machines or operations present potential injuries to the face from physical, chemical, or radiation elements, your company must select, provide, maintain, and require affected employees to use appropriate eye protection.

Operations such as welding, metal grinding, working with molten metals, and working with hazardous chemicals all require the use of face protection. Many hard hats and non-rigid helmets are designed with face protection built in.



Employee Training

Under §1910.132 General requirements, OSHA requires that employers provide training to each employee who must use personal protective equipment (PPE). That training should include details of:

- When PPE is necessary.
- What PPE is necessary.
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE.
- The limitations of the PPE.
- The proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of PPE.

Training Tips

Using the employee handout, review the requirements for face protection.

List the operations which require the use of face protections, and why it is needed.

Show the types of face protection and how to wear and care for them.

Where To Go For More Information

29 CFR 1910.133—Eye and face protection.

ANSI Z87.1-1989—Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection.

