

THE

CONNECTION

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Hazard:

Approximately 100 employees are fatally injured and approximately 95,000 employees are injured every year while operating powered industrial trucks. Forklift turnover accounts for a significant number of these fatalities.

Solutions:

- ~ Train and certify all operators to ensure that they operate forklifts safely.
- ~ Do not allow any employee under 18 years old to operate a forklift.
- ~ Properly maintain haulage equipment, including tires.
- ~ Do not modify or make adjustments that affect the capacity and safe operation of the forklift without written approval from the forklift's manufacturer.
- ~ Examine forklift truck for defects before using.
- ~ Follow safe operating procedures for picking up, moving, putting down and stacking loads.

Personal Protective Equipment

Knight in Shinning Armor

When dragon-fighting, a suit of armor keeps you from getting burned to a crisp. You can't exactly be someone's shinning knight if you are reduced to a pile of ash. It seems that most activities we partake of in life require some sort of special gear. People everywhere, from cowboys in their leather chaps, to cooks in their aprons, don some sort of protective gear to keep them safe from harm. Personal protective equipment (PPE) comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes for all sorts of professions, and it's important that workers understand what they need to wear to safely do their jobs.

PPE is so important that Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards require that employers provide PPE, and training in its use, at no cost to employees. Employers must also make sure that they have thoroughly inspected the workplace to identify all physical and health hazards and other possible dangers. No matter what your job, at the end of the day you want your armor, and yourself, to be in one piece.

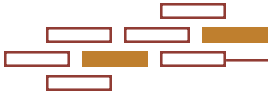
I Have to Wear What?

"Hi, I'm looking for something in a welding mask, not too flashy, and I want it to match my shirt." OK. PPE might not look very pretty or very comfortable, but it's better than the possible alternative, which could be permanent bodily damage or even death. Often workers see wearing PPE as a hindrance thinking it uncomfortable and time-consuming. Don't let thoughts like these cloud your safety zone, or you could find yourself in one of those stylish little hospital gowns.

The Ball's in Your Court

While your employer is responsible for providing you with the PPE you need and PPE training it is your responsibility to take safety into your own hands by wearing your gear and wearing it correctly. Before you start any job, spend some time looking over the possible dangers. Also make sure you read all warnings, labels and usage manuals so you are sure you know what precautions you need to take. Your employer can provide you with all the PPE and training you need, but only you can make sure you put it to use.



**REMEMBER
THERE'S PPE TO FIT
ANY JOB.***Rubber gloves**Sunscreen**Bug spray**Hair net**Leather gloves**Steel-toed boots**Knee-pads**Bullet-proof vest**Athletic shoes**Slip-resistant boots**Ear plugs**Face guard**Goggles**Harness**Oven-mitt**Hardhat**Dust mask**Leather apron***Demolition Safety Tips**

Demolition work involves many of the same hazards that arise during other construction activities. However, demolition also involves additional hazards due to a variety of other factors. Some of these include: lead-based paint, sharp or protruding objects and asbestos-containing material.

- * Brace or shore up the walls and floors of structures which have been damaged and which employees must enter.
- * Inspect personal protective equipment (PPE) before use.
- * Select, wear and use appropriate PPE for the task.
- * Inspect all stairs, passageways, and ladders; illuminate all stairways.
- * Shut off or cap all electric, gas, water, steam, sewer, and other service lines; notify appropriate utility companies.
- * Guard wall openings to a height of 42 inches; cover and secure floor openings with material able to withstand the loads likely to be imposed.
- * Floor openings used for material disposal must not be more than 25% of the total floor area.
- * Use enclosed chutes with gates on the discharge end to drop demolition material to the ground or into debris containers.
- * Demolition of exterior walls and floors must begin at the top of the structure and proceed downward.
- * Structural or load-supporting members on any floor must not be cut or removed until all stories above that floor have been removed.
- * All roof cornices or other ornamental stonework must be removed prior to pulling walls down.
- * Employees must not be permitted to work where structural collapse hazards exist until they are corrected by shoring, bracing, or other effective means.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Connection. To submit articles and/or topic ideas, please call: (269) 629-9708 or send to P.O. Box 460, Richland, MI 49083. Also visit our website at: www.CLS-Skilledlabor.com