

Workplace PPE HELPS keep everyone and the employee safe

Personal Protective Equipment, commonly referred to as “PPE”, is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

All personal protective equipment should be safely designed and constructed, and should be maintained in a clean and reliable fashion. It should fit comfortably, encouraging worker use. If the personal protective equipment does not fit properly, it can make the difference between being safely covered or dangerously exposed. When engineering, work practice, and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employees should seek out and wear personal protective equipment and properly use it. Supervisors are expected to train each worker required to use personal protective equipment to know:

- When it is necessary
- What kind is necessary
- How to properly put it on, adjust, wear and take it off
- The limitations of the equipment
- Proper care, maintenance, and disposal of the equipment



Commonly Used PPE -

One piece of PPE that has become more common in 2020 due to COVID-19 is the facemask. Kent County employees are currently required to wear a face covering to help limit the spread of the virus. Other PPE commonly used:

- Gloves, for hand protection, and for protection against bodily fluids
- Ear plugs, for hearing protection against noise
- Eye protection, to protect eyes from injury and fluid
- Helmets, to protect from head injury
- Steel toed boots, to protect feet from injury
- Respirators, to protect against inhalation hazards.
- Sanitizer, to protect against germs and viruses.

Keeping PPE clean and free from defect will allow for a longer useful life of the equipment. Employees and others who may need PPE should contact their supervisor for proper training and use of PPE. Safety is everyone’s responsibility – please take this obligation seriously.

For more information contact Kent County’s Safety Officer Brandon Olenik at (302) 735-2200.