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**M5 Lesson 6: Work Safety Part 5 – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Core Competencies:

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| * Communication
 | * Thinking
 | * Personal & Social
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Big Ideas:

* Lifelong learning fosters career-life opportunities.

Curricular Competencies:

* Demonstrate inclusive, respectful, and safe interactions in diverse career-life environments
* Practice effective strategies for healthy school/work/life balance

In this lesson, students will learn the different pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) that should be used on the job

For Students

Various jobs make use of **personal protective equipment,**or PPE, to help minimize the risk of injury for specific types of work. Categories of PPE include the following:

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| **Eye and face protection**- safety glasses or face shields |
| **Hearing protection -**ear plugs or ear muffs |
| **Head protection -**hard hat |
| **Hand protection -**safety gloves |
| **Foot protection -**steel-toed boots |
| **Breathing protection -**dust mask or respirator |
| **Visibility enhancement -**visibility vest, wearable lights |

Whenever you are required to use PPE on the job, your employer or supervisor must train you in how to use it properly.

While most PPE is supplied by the employer, it is your responsibility to provide your own basic work clothing including:

* Footwear (including non-slip or steel toed shoes or boots if required for the job)
* Clothing for the elements (hot, cold, sun protection)
* Work gloves
* Hard hat / head protection

However, you should feel free to ask your employer where to purchase such items, and what brands or varieties are best for the work. In addition, some employers may have items available for you to borrow or purchase at cost!

For more information on who should pay for an maintain personal protective equipment (the employer or the employee) visit <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/tools-machinery-equipment/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/responsibilities>

When starting a new job, you should be proactive in thinking about the PPE that you may need. It's important to think about the type of work you may be doing and ask your supervisor or employer what type of PPE you will need.

The various resources on the Student Resource Page of Worksafe BC will give you some information, as will the [PPE page on worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/tools-machinery-equipment/personal-protective-equipment-ppe)

Once you are clear on the PPE that is required for your position, make sure you know:

* The purpose of the PPE - what injuries is it designed to prevent?
* How to wear it properly, use it, clean it and store it
* Any regulations for its use.

Assignment:

Download the following assignment sheet for Personal Protective Equipment. Identify the personal protective equipment indicated in the picture, and why it is used.

[Personal Protective Equipment Assignment](https://comoxvalleyschools.instructure.com/courses/1017/files/413996/download?verifier=vEs5mxVAwfPTzuOXagHBc0kdsubLIZWRYASpWfUZ&wrap=1) – (pdf attachment is on the portal)

Hint: the arrow pointing at the square they are carrying is just indicating that the employees are working safely by sharing the load. This will help any ergonomic hazards that could occur with heavy lifting.

When you are finished completing the handout, submit it here.