



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

September 2023

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is our first line of defense against workplace hazards, but it's only effective if it's in good condition. Regular inspections ensure that our PPE remains reliable and keeps us safe. Let's delve into why PPE inspections matter and how to conduct them properly.

Why PPE Inspections Matter:

- PPE is designed to protect us from various hazards, such as impact, chemicals, heat, and more.
- Over time, PPE can degrade due to wear and tear, exposure to elements, or simply through regular use.
- A damaged or malfunctioning piece of PPE may not provide the protection it's intended for, putting us at risk of injuries.



When to Inspect PPE:

- Before each use: Inspect your PPE before you start your shift. Make it a habit.
- After any incidents: If you experience an impact or accident, check your PPE even if it appears undamaged.
- Regularly: Set a schedule for thorough inspections, whether weekly or monthly.



How to Inspect PPE:

1. **Visual Inspection:** Look for any signs of damage, such as cracks, tears, or frayed straps.
2. **Functional Check:** Ensure that all components are working as intended. For example, check the adjustability of straps, the clarity of safety glasses, or the locking mechanisms on helmets.
3. **Cleanliness:** Clean your PPE regularly according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Dirty or oily PPE might not work as expected.
4. **Proper Fit:** Confirm that your PPE fits correctly. Ill-fitting PPE can compromise its effectiveness.

Examples of PPE Inspections:

1. **Hard Hats:** Check for cracks, dents, or signs of wear. Make sure the suspension system is intact and adjustable.
2. **Safety Glasses:** Inspect lenses for scratches or cracks. Verify that the frames and arms are in good condition.
3. **Gloves:** Look for holes, tears, or weakened areas. Check that they fit snugly without restricting movement.
4. **Ear Protection:** Examine for any wear and tear. Ensure earplugs or earmuffs provide a proper seal.
5. **Respirators:** Inspect the mask for damage or degradation. Confirm that the straps and seals are in good condition.



Reporting and Replacing:

- If you find any issues during inspection, report it immediately to your supervisor.
- Damaged or malfunctioning PPE should not be used. Replace it as soon as possible.



**Town of Perinton
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- Properly dispose of old or unusable PPE according to guidelines.

Remember, our safety is in our hands. By conducting regular PPE inspections, we're taking an active role in ensuring our protection. Let's make it a habit to inspect our PPE before each use, report any issues, and replace damaged equipment promptly. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to ask. Stay safe out there!