

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at ULM

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used as a “last line of defense” to protect employees from workplace hazards. We tend to call it a last line of defense because if at all possible, we try to eliminate the hazard through engineering controls.

**What is PPE?** Personal Protective Equipment generally is equipment that protects your body from workplace hazards. It includes but is not limited to: hard hats, gloves, safety glasses / goggles, face shields, mouth guards, fall protection equipment (harnesses, etc.), hearing protection (ear plugs, ear muffs, etc.), respirators, and other specialized equipment.

**Who is required to wear personal protective equipment?** It really could be any employee of the University depending on the work they are performing. Some examples include:

- A Chemistry Professor preparing chemicals for laboratory experiments – typically will require hand protection (gloves), eye protection (safety glasses), and a lab coat in case chemicals are spilled on to clothing.
- A University Police Officer responds to a vehicle accident with injuries and renders first aid until emergency medical personnel arrive. The police officer must use medical gloves, and may also use other forms of personal protective equipment.
- An Equipment Operator for the grounds department operates a large riding mower throughout the campus for the entire work day. That person needs eye protection for objects that may be thrown up from the mower (safety glasses) and hearing protection (ear plugs or ear muffs) due to the high decibel level of the mower’s engine, cutting deck, and running gear. Additionally they are required to wear trousers / long pants and closed footwear (no sandals, flip flops, etc.) to protect the employee from objects that may be possibly thrown from the mower.

The list of examples can continue on and is wide and varied. Each employee and their

You must also train workers who are required to wear personal protective equipment on how to do the following:

- Use protective equipment properly,
- Be aware of when personal protective equipment is necessary,
- Know what kind of protective equipment is necessary,
- Understand the limitations of personal protective equipment in protecting workers from injury,
- Put on, adjust, wear, and take off personal protective equipment, and
- Maintain protective equipment properly.

**Protection from Head Inju<sup>e</sup>lce**

This is one in a series of informational fact shee