



Forestry

PPE can help protect you from many hazards in a forestry operation.

How can you protect yourself?

Clothing

- Dress appropriately for anticipated weather conditions.
- Remove any dangling jewelry and rings to avoid getting snagged on equipment or branches.
- Wear comfortable close-fitting clothing that does not restrict your ability to move freely.

High visibility apparel

- Wear high visibility clothing in a colour that contrasts with the environment so you can be seen at a distance. Make sure your high visibility clothing is not covered by other garments. You must wear it when:
 - Working around any moving vehicles, equipment, or lines
 - Working alone or in isolation
 - Harvesting trees at night
 - Performing traffic control in work areas where there is vehicle traffic moving through a work zone or for falling operations
 - Directing helicopter movements
- Loose-fitting high visibility outer clothing must be “tear away” if worn for work where it could get caught on moving equipment or objects such as branches or limbs.



Leg protection

When operating a chain saw, you must wear leg protection such as pants, chaps, or an apron made of cut-resistant material. (The terms “chaps” and “aprons” are sometimes used interchangeably.)

- Check that your leg protection has a label indicating that it meets WCB Standard: PPE 1 – 1997.
- Check that the cut-resistant material protects the front and sides of your legs, from the crotch to 7.5 cm (3 in) above your ankle.
- Make sure your garment stays in position while you are working so the cut-resistant material provides protection.
 - Consider pants because they stay in position.
 - Chaps may twist around your legs. Fasten the straps securely and adjust them regularly to keep them in place.
- Your leg protection should be comfortable enough to allow freedom of movement but not so loose as to pose a safety risk.
- If you fight forest fires, your leg protection must be made of flame-resistant material.

Mobile equipment operators must wear approved safety headgear, footwear and high visibility apparel when out of the operator’s cab in an active work area.

Foot protection

- Wear approved safety footwear to protect your ankles, soles, and toes. Safety footwear a minimum of 20 cm (8 in.) in height provides good ankle protection.
 - Wear chainsaw protective footwear when working with a chainsaw.
 - Wear caulked or other equally effective safety footwear when walking on logs, poles, pilings, or other round timbers.

Head protection

- Wear approved safety headgear (hard hat) of a colour that contrasts with the work environment.
- Secure the chin strap when working at heights over 3 m (10 ft.), in high winds, or when working around helicopter operations or in other conditions that may cause it to fall off.
- When operating or riding on an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile, wear safety headgear approved specifically for these activities.

Eye and face protection

- Wear safety eyewear with sideshields to protect your eyes from flying debris.
- When using a chainsaw, wear safety eyewear with sideshields and a wire mesh face shield that easily flips up when not required.

Hearing protection

- Wear earmuffs or earplugs when exposed to high noise levels, for example, when using a chainsaw or around noisy equipment.

Hand protection

- Wear gloves that fit and grip well to protect against cuts, abrasions, splinters, vibration, cold, wet, harmful vegetation, and when filing and handling the chainsaw, and when handling wire rope or other steel objects.

Fall protection

- Use a fall protection system when working on an elevation or steep slope where there is a risk of falling.

Flotation devices

- Wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket with a minimum buoyancy of 69 Newtons (15.5 lb.) whenever there is a risk of drowning.
- If you are working alone, you must wear a self-righting flotation device with a minimum of 93 Newtons (21 lb.) of buoyancy.

Respiratory protection

- You may need to wear a respirator to protect you from breathing hazards, for example, when spraying chemicals for vegetation management. If you do need to wear a respirator, check with your employer that you have the right one for the job. You must be properly fitted and trained in the correct use of the respirator, including how to wear it and how to clean, maintain, and store it, before you start work.

For more information go to WorkSafeBC.com, OHS Regulation Parts 8 and 26.

