



Instructor Guide

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Topic Overview (why the topic is important to the students)

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is equipment and clothing designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** the different types of PPE used by hair stylists, including gloves aprons, masks and goggles, and how injuries can occur if PPE isn't used or is used incorrectly. Clarify that contact lenses are not PPE.
 - **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out the hazards, and which type of PPE would be required for each.
 - **Explain** that workers are responsible for providing their own clothing for protection against natural elements. All other PPE, such as eye and face protection, protective clothing, and specialty gloves is required to be provided by the employer.
 - **Distribute** the student handout.
 - **Review** the safety tips.
 - **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the need for PPE (e.g., use of less toxic or hazardous alternatives).
 - **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience that resulted from lack or improper use of PPE, or use the following examples:
 - A hair stylist was working with a hair straightening solution. The solution splashed up into his eyes. His vision was blurry and his eyes painful for several days. He was not wearing goggles.
 - A young worker suffered chemical burns to her hands after mixing cleaning solutions to wash the floor of the shop. She was not wearing gloves.
- **Discuss** the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
 - **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about PPE.
 - **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
 - **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

Resources

- Regulation Part 8
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part8.asp>
- OHS Guidelines Part 8
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart8.asp>