

CHAPTER 10
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
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CHAPTER 10

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policy and procedures regarding personal protective equipment (PPE).
2. AUTHORITY. California Code of Regulations, Title 8, General Industry Safety Orders 3380-3385, mandate use of personal protective equipment when appropriate.
3. POLICY. Departmental policy requires that employees be protected from potential harmful exposures through the use of appropriate engineering and/or administrative controls. PPE shall be used only when engineering and/or administrative controls are not feasible, during the time period necessary to install or implement feasible engineering controls, or in an emergency.
4. RESPONSIBILITIES. Commanders shall ensure that PPE is used appropriately relative to command activities.
5. DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT. Employees shall be issued approved PPE pursuant to individual bargaining unit contract language. Employees who are issued PPE are required to use the equipment, when appropriate, during the performance of their duties. Additionally, employees shall use and maintain the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
6. EMPLOYEE-OWNED EQUIPMENT. Commanders may approve the use of appropriate employee-owned PPE. Employee-owned PPE shall be of a type, design, strength, and quality equivalent to the standards approved by the American National Standards Institute, Bureau of Standards, or other recognized authorities and shall be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

7. PROCEDURES.

- a. Head Protection. Employees exposed to airborne or falling objects, electric shock and burns, or other potential head hazards shall be safeguarded by means of head protection.
- b. Eye and Face Protection. Employees working in locations where there is a risk of receiving eye and/or face injuries, such as punctures, abrasions, contusions, or burns, as a result of contact with airborne particles, hazardous substances, projections, or inherently injurious light rays shall be safeguarded by means of eye and/or face protection.
- c. Body Protection. Body protection may be required for employees whose work exposes parts of their body, not otherwise protected, to hazardous substances or objects.
- d. Hand Protection. Appropriate hand protection shall be required for employees whose work involves exposure of hands to cuts, burns, abrasions, harmful physical or chemical agents, radioactive materials, or other substances which are capable of causing injuries.
- e. Foot Protection. Foot protection may be required for employees whose feet are exposed to hot, corrosive, or poisonous substances, falling objects, crushing or penetrating actions, or abnormally wet locations.
- f. Back Protection. Back support safety belts are available, if authorized by the commander, for employees who are routinely exposed to materials-handling hazards. Commands shall ensure that these employees follow manufacturer's instructions in the use and maintenance of the belts, review the training video available from division, read the back protection and exercise brochures obtainable from the command, and follow the materials-handling and lifting techniques described in Chapter 9, Annex E.
- g. Hearing Protection. Hearing protection shall be issued and used when an employee is exposed to noise which exceeds permissible levels in accordance with the Department's Hearing Conservation Program (Annex 9-B).
- h. Respiratory Protection. Respiratory protection shall be issued to specified employees who are routinely required to wear such equipment. This equipment shall be used when engineering and/or administrative controls are inadequate or not feasible to mitigate the employee's exposure to harmful levels of airborne contaminants and substances. Use of this equipment shall be in accordance with the Department's Respiratory Protection Program (Annex 9-A).

8. DAMAGED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. If the potential exists that PPE may have been damaged, even if no visible damage is sustained, the equipment shall not be reused. Motorcycle helmets and soft body armor shall be forwarded to Business Services Section , Supply Services Unit (SSU), with a CHP 266, Credit Memo, attached. All other potentially damaged PPE shall be appropriately disposed of locally. If a Comm-Net describing the incident is distributed, it shall include information pertaining to the protection afforded by the motorcycle helmet in mitigating injury to the employee. A copy of the Comm-Net shall be forwarded to the Departmental Training Division, Occupational Safety Unit (**Revised 5-04.**)

9. SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES INVOLVING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. If an employee sustains a serious or fatal injury involving a body part protected by PPE, the commander shall ensure the equipment is preserved as evidence in the command's evidence locker. The commander shall then contact the Legal Coordination Unit, regarding future disposition of the equipment.

10. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUISITION. PPE is either available from SSU or may be requisitioned in accordance with instructions contained in HPM 11.2, Materials Management Manual.

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