

Safety Issues

Personal Protective Equipment



Tech Tip

A pre-job hazard analysis should be done prior to the start of each job, and the Personal Protective Equipment chosen should be the equipment that best fits that job. When making a pre-job analysis, consider the following exposures:

- Impact
- Penetration
- Roll over
- Chemical
- Heat
- Harmful dust
- Confined space
- Fall hazards

Our daily work environment exposes us to many hazards, both on job sites and in our own yards. Some of these hazards are minimal while others are extreme. As part of our job, we must always be aware of these hazards, continually assess them and assure that they are minimized. The use of properly selected Personal Protective Equipment will help in protecting our bodies from some of these hazards; however, Personal Protective Equipment should be used in conjunction with common sense and specific, job-related safety equipment.

Safway, as well as OSHA, requires that our employees wear protective equipment when we are exposed to these possible hazards. This equipment includes:

Foot Protection

While in most cases steel-toed work boots are recommended, a sturdy leather boot with a heel is a must. Lace-up, above-the-ankle boots give the best support while working in a construction type atmosphere, and when selected properly, are comfortable to wear.

The soles of the boot should be made of non-slip material with notches or grooves between the heel and sole to conform to the round scaffold material and be free from holes. Puncture-resistant soles are also preferred.

Work Pants

Thick, flexible work pants should be worn at all times. Pants that are thick enough to protect the lower body from the elements work best. Sweat pants and shorts are not recommended.

Shirts

It is important that shirts with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ -length sleeves be worn at all times while erecting or dismantling scaffold. In some cases, long-sleeve shirts are mandatory. All shirts must be long enough to cover the entire upper body. Half-shirts are not to be worn. A thick cotton shirt works well and is comfortable to wear in most weather and work conditions. It also provides a cushion when wearing a full body harness. Extremely loose fitting shirts are not recommended, as they tend to snag on some equipment.

Safety Glasses

Safety glasses should be worn at all times while erecting or dismantling scaffold. A good pair of safety glasses will cover the eye entirely, from the eyebrow to the cheekbone. Side shields should be worn at all times. Many of the new safety glasses have side shields molded into the frame itself. If you wear prescription glasses, your doctor can fit you with prescription safety glasses. Slip-on side shields are also available.

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