ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

I. Program Introduction

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes all types of equipment used to increase individual safety while performing potentially hazardous tasks. This may include safety glasses, hard hats, foot protection, gloves, ear plugs or ear muffs, disposable coveralls, face masks, or any equipment used to protect against injury or illness.

The Florida Department of Labor requires PPE to be provided and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition. All employees are required to use PPE whenever environmental, chemical, radiological, or mechanical hazards are encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or illness through absorption, inhalation or physical contact. The Florida Department of Labor enforces Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards at public and private institutions. This program helps meet the requirements of the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.132. A copy of the standard and this policy is available upon request from Environmental Compliance and Risk Management (ECRM) Unit within the Office of Physical Plant and on the ECRM website.

II. Program Description

Engineering controls eliminate hazards at the source and do not rely on employee's behavior for effectiveness offers the best and most reliable means of protection. Therefore, engineering controls are the first choice for eliminating workplace hazards. Whenever engineering controls are not feasible or are not fully capable of providing protection, employees must wear personal protective equipment.

A. Head Protection

A protective helmet (hard hat) will be worn when working in areas where there is the potential for injury from falling objects, contact with a fixed object, or exposed energized electrical conductors that could impact an individual's head.

B. Eye and Face Protection

Appropriate eye and face protection, such as safety glasses, goggles, and face shields, will be used to protect against the hazards associated with flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, biohazards, acids and caustic liquids, chemical gases and vapors, or light radiation.

C. Hand Protection

Hand protection will be worn to protect against the hazards of skin absorption of harmful substances, severe cuts or lacerations, severe abrasions, punctures, chemical burns, biohazards, or hot and cold temperature extremes.

D. Foot Protection

Protective footwear must be worn where there is the potential for foot injuries from falling or rolling objects, from objects piercing the sole, or from exposed energized electrical conductors that could contact the feet.

E. Hearing Conservation

Continued exposure to noise of sufficient intensity can result in permanent hearing impairment. If an individual must shout to communicate with another close by because of noise, it is likely that the level of this noise is of sufficient amplitude to cause a temporary or permanent hearing loss (threshold shift). For exposures of 85 dBA or greater, controls must be instituted to lower the noise levels to below 85 dBA TWA for an eight-hour day. If controls cannot be instituted to accomplish this reduction, hearing protection must be worn which will reduce the exposures to an acceptable level until the noise can be reduced. The Office of Physical Plant and ECRM can provide a noise level assessment and make recommendations upon request.

F. Face Mask

Face masks may be used to protect against inhalation hazards when engineering and administrative controls are not feasible or adequate.

G. Full Body Protection

There may be occasions when full body coverage is required. Disposable coveralls and "booties" (shoe covers) along with respirators and gloves may be required to prevent contamination of clothing and exposed body parts. Cleaning up animal or human waste from sewer backups or changing air filters on large HVAC systems are tasks where disposable clothing may be required.

III. Program Implementation Responsibilities and Contact Information

Location/Subject	Contact	Telephone	Email
Program Clarification	Manager of ECRM	(305) 628-6648	mbrijbasi@stu.edu ecrm@stu.edu
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Science and Technology	Lab Director	(305) 474-6905	jilldwoodward@stu.edu
Law School	Budget and Building Manager	(305) 623-2346	oleyva@stu.edu