

## A Five-minute Training Series for Pest Management Professionals

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### Personal Protective Equipment by Task

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. Personal protective equipment may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, bump caps, respirators, or coveralls, high visibility vests and kneepads.

Always maintain all personal protective equipment in a clean and reliable condition by inspecting it on a regular basis. Take inventory and know where to find each item. If the personal protective equipment does not fit properly, it can make the difference between being safely covered or dangerously exposed.

**Before you begin your workday, carefully consider the tasks you will be completing today.**



- What PPE will you need to have in your truck?
- Do you have the specific type you need for the tasks ahead?
- Is your PPE in good repair?
- Do you have the quantity you will require for the day?
- Do you know where each PPE item is stored on your truck?

**Scenario:** You will need to enter the attic at a few of your stops today. What PPE will you need to protect yourself from hazards while you are in that space?

- 1) A bump cap to protect your head from overhead hazards, goggles or eyewear with side shields to protect your eyes from debris and protrusions.
- 2) Kneepads for crawling over surfaces with sharp edges or screws and nails, respirator for compromised air quality, coverall or crawl suit.
- 3) Gloves to protect you from contaminants, footwear to provide good traction on debris covered surfaces. All of these items could be necessary to protect you.

As you begin each task, consider the hazards that you could encounter. What PPE will help protect you from these hazards?

- When is it necessary?
- What kind is necessary?
- Do I know how to properly put it on, adjust, wear and take it off?
- Do I know the limitations of the equipment?
- Do I know the proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE?

### Remember

1. If you do not know the PPE required for a task, stop and ask questions.
2. If your PPE is damaged or is simply worn out, obtain replacement items through your company supply system.
3. Obtain all the necessary PPE before proceeding with a task.

Personal Protective Equipment protects **you** from hazards. Poor PPE compliance greatly increases the risk of injury.

**Keep yourself safe** on the job by using your PPE properly every time.

