

Montana Ag Safety Program



Personal Protective Equipment

Footwear: Closed toed footwear with a covered heel is necessary at all times and for all tasks. All shoes should be properly fitted and firmly tied (when appropriate). Avoid laces that are too long for the boot or shoe; laces that are too long pose a significant entanglement hazard. Slip-resistant, waterproof, snake proof, and electric hazard rated boots or shoes are encouraged as are steel or composite-toed footwear.

Pants: All pants should be close-fitting and comfortable. Avoid pants that have unnecessary material such as bell bottoms or pants that are too long/baggy. Pay special attention to any rips or fraying and repair or replace as soon as possible. Wear a belt or suspenders as necessary.

Shirts: Shirts should be close-fitting and comfortable. Button shirt cuffs of long-sleeved shirts. Pay special attention to any rips or fraying and repair or replace as soon as possible.

Coats/Jackets/Sweatshirts/etc.: Remove any drawstrings, fabric zipper pulls, etc. Keep coats sipped or buttoned to reduce the risk of entanglement. All outerwear should be close-fitting (keep in mind that you may want to wear additional layers underneath so size accordingly) and free of rips or tears.

Headwear: A hat (ball cap, cowboy hat, etc.) is encouraged for daily wear when outside. Hard hats should be worn anytime there is danger of falling objects or overhead obstructions. Choose a well-fitting, warm hat for outside wear as deemed necessary for cold weather conditions.

Eye protection: Choose the correct eye protection for the task at hand: safety glasses, safety goggles, or face shields. Clear safety glasses are ideal, but tinted lenses may be appropriate for outdoor tasks. Eye protection should always be worn underneath a welding helmet. Ensure the correct shade for all welding, cutting, and grinding tasks. Oxy-acetylene and plasma cutting require a minimum of Shade 5 where most welding processes require a minimum of a Shade 10.

Hearing protection: Significant hearing damage can occur at prolonged exposure to noise over 70 decibels. Wear earplugs or earmuffs, when necessary. Ensure earplugs are inserted correctly.

Hand protection: Gloves may be necessary for certain tasks. Choose the correct glove for the task: chemical resistant, rubber, nitrile, leather, "mechanics", etc. All gloves should be the correct size. Gloves that are too large can pose significant danger to the wearer.

Respiratory protection: A mask or respirator may be required. Ensure all respiratory protection is in good repair and fits correctly.

Other considerations: All loose hair should be tied back. Avoid wearing jewelry. Other PPE may be necessary and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis before completing the task.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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