

SAFETY FOCUS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) ASSESSMENT

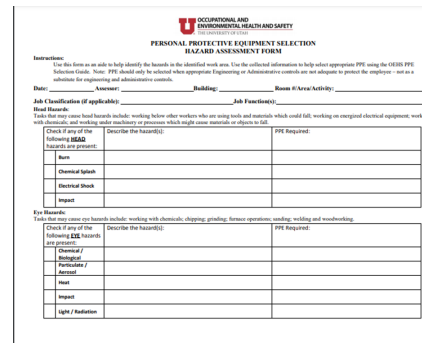
Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as “PPE”, is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that have the potential to cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses when engineering or administrative controls are inadequate or not possible. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Properly evaluating workplace hazards through a PPE Assessment is essential for appropriate and effective PPE selection.

WHO: All University of Utah faculty, staff and students are required to wear appropriate PPE for hazardous work tasks. Supervisors/Principal Investigators are responsible for ensuring work tasks and hazards have been evaluated to determine required PPE. Safety specialists with Environmental Health and Safety can assist in conducting PPE Assessments.

WHAT: Each workplace needs to be evaluated for PPE selection and use. Resources to consult in making PPE determinations include but are not limited to: Safety Data Sheets, Standard Operating Procedures, owner’s manuals for machines and equipment, OSHA fact sheets and EHS. The PPE assessment should be documented on the University’s Personal Protective Equipment Selection Hazard Assessment Form.

WHEN: PPE assessments should be conducted when a work center or lab initially starts operating. Additionally, PPE assessments need to be reviewed and updated anytime there is a change in process, new equipment/machinery, new chemicals or new work tasks/research are introduced.

HOW: To conduct a PPE assessment, download the [Personal Protective Equipment Selection Hazard Assessment Form](https://tinyurl.com/2kdwmpdw). <https://tinyurl.com/2kdwmpdw>

The image shows a form titled 'PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SELECTION HAZARD ASSESSMENT FORM' from the University of Utah Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety. It includes fields for Date, Building, Room #/Area/Activity, and Job Function(s). There are two main sections for hazard assessment: 'Check if any of the following (EH&S) hazards are present' and 'Check if any of the following (EH&S) hazards are present'. Each section has a table with columns for 'Describe the hazard(s)' and 'PPE Required'. The first section lists hazards like Heat, Chemical splash, Electrical shock, and Impact. The second section lists hazards like Skin (any cause), Inhalation, Permeation/Absorption, Noise, Vibration, and Light / Radiation.

The form can also be downloaded from the Safety Administration System (SAM), in the template document library.

Perform a physical walkthrough of the work space to identify any hazards to which employees may be exposed. Additionally, conduct a review of each work process for hazards that can’t be eliminated through engineering or administrative controls. Use the PPE Selection form and document any hazards present under the appropriate section. Once the hazards are identified, use the Safety Data Sheet, Standard Operating Procedure, OSHA guidance and/or EHS guidance to select the appropriate PPE and document on the PPE Selection form.

After the PPE Assessment is documented, load the form into the SAM document library and include it with the work center’s/lab’s safety plan or chemical hygiene plan.



* image provided by OSHA