

# MINE SAFETY & TRAINING

CONTACT SAFETY  
ISSUE FOR JANUARY  
2016

**State of Nevada  
Division of Industrial Relations  
Mine Safety and Training Section**

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CONTACT SAFETY PROGRAM

JAN. 2016

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Safety apparel comes in great variety of options and is manufactured to protect any part of your body. Some closely resemble street wear in comfort and appearance and some well, not so much. PPE is very special gear and should be considered a last resort. Your efforts always should be directed toward controlling the hazard by other means, and only where this proves infeasible should PPE be substituted. At best, your Personal Protective Equipment is going to be a weak barrier between you and the potential hazard. Instead of reliance on personal protective equipment, the company will sometimes make substantial expenditures of time and money to eliminate a hazard all together.

### **HEAD PROTECTION: NRS 512.15002**

Hard hats are required to be worn in and around underground mines, surface mines, mills and buildings. Hard hats must be designed and manufactured to meet standard specifications, make sure that your hard hat meets your needs. Both the shell and suspension of hard hats should be maintained in good condition so they retain adequate strength for your protection. Poorly fitting suspensions or cracked shells are common defects from constant usage which reduces the hats safety effectiveness. Shells made of molded resin and fiber or plastic offer a variety of qualities such as strength against impact or piercing, resistance to heat and cold, and electrical insulation. Hats must meet the requirements of the job you are doing.

Hard hats, if worn correctly, are well ventilated; the air entering between the suspension and shell should circulate freely in the crown. A close fitting cloth hat liner can be worn under the hat in cold weather.

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**EYE AND FACE PROTECTION NRS 512.15004 & 15014**

- 1.) **Safety Glasses:** Prescription and safety eye glasses are constructed with lenses of high impact strength and non-shattering materials along with sturdy frames and side shields. Manufacturers mark the lens with a trade mark to indicate conformance with industrial specifications.
- 2.) **Goggles:** Lightweight plastic lenses or screens mounted in frames which enclose the entire eye. These are useful when low-velocity, lightweight chips or dusty material may be airborne and could enter the eyes.
- 3.) **Face Shields:** Lightweight plastic visors are designed to stop low-impact material such as dust or splashing liquids, etc. Prescription glasses can be worn under the shield. Chemical splash goggles should be worn under a face shield when splash hazards are present as goggles are the primary source of eye protection.
- 4.) **Helmets:** Essentially having your whole head completely enclosed, helmets are used in welding, sandblasting or when miners are subject to splashing liquids or molten metal. The window in the helmet offers impact protection and can be tinted for protection against light produced by an arc welding flash.

**HEARING PROTECTION NRS 512.62.5050(b)**

Noise levels can be reduced by the use of ear plugs or muffs. Sound damage varies with noise and frequency, also the type and design of plugs or muffs and their fit. Ear plugs work by rolling and inserting moldable foam plug material into the ear passage. Ear muffs cover the ear and surrounding area. If worn correctly muffs offer better protection because they not only block the ear canal but offer protection against sound conducted through the bony area around the ear.

A common mistake made by miners is the belief that in a pinch, ordinary cotton, paper or cigarette butts will do for a short period. **Don't believe it**, this myth is ineffective!

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**HAND, FOOT AND LEG PROTECTION**

**Hands:** (NRS 512.15007) There are gloves of many types and materials which offer protection against most hazards found in the mining industry. If properly selected they should effectively insulate the miners hands from electrical shock, temperature extremes, lacerations, chemical burns and many other things. But the trick is, in order to work they need to be on your hands not the loader or truck seat.

**Feet:** (NRS 512.15003) Protection is offered by the physical qualities of the leather or rubber boot material coupled with steel caps over the toes. Some boots offer additional features such as metatarsal guards over the instep and a steel shank in the sole.

**Legs:** (NRS 512.15006) Aprons or chaps provide leg protection and are used in a variety of special applications.

**RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT**

Use and care of respirators: (NAC 512.5005) Only when every reasonable effort has been made to remove the hazard should you depend on a respirator. This equipment varies from fully self-contained as with portable oxygen breathing device (SCBA) to a simple filter mask to capture airborne dust particles. Respiratory devices with the appropriate filters or chemical canisters are available to cope with most toxic gases or dust which may be found in the mining environment. It is imperative that the device is matched to the hazards, that the employees are well trained in the proper use, device limitations, and that the equipment is well maintained.

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**QUIZ**

- 1.) At best, your PPE is going to be a weak barrier between you and a potential hazard. (T) or (F)
- 2.) Both the shell and suspension of your hard hat should be maintained in good condition by the company. (T) or (F)
- 3.) Goggles are constructed with lenses of high impact strength and non-shattering material's.  
(T) or (F)
- 4.) Noise levels can be reduced by the use of cigarette butts for a short period. (T) or (F)
- 5.) There are gloves of many types and materials which offer protection against most hazards found in the mining industry. The wearer must be well trained in the proper use, limitations, and how to keep them well maintained. (T) or (F)
- 6.) Only when every reasonable effort has been made to remove the hazard should you depend on a respirator. (T) or (F)

If there is any specific topics you would like to learn more about please write it on line below.

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Employee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mine/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_