



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

**Proper Use of Required PPE Begins with Each Tour of Duty, and Needs to be Part of Your Job Preparation Every Day**

**PPE is equipment that will protect workers against health or safety risks on the job**

Each year, accidents happen frequently in the railroad industry and often times it is due to the absence of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or failure to wear the provided PPE. The purpose of PPE is to reduce employee exposure to hazards when engineering and administrative controls are not feasible or effective to reduce these risks to acceptable levels. These hazards can be anything from slippery surfaces to falling materials or debris and everything in between.

### **PPE Examples:**

- Protective helmets
- Eye protection
- High-visibility clothing
- Safety footwear
- Safety harnesses
- Respiratory protective equipment

### **Company Requirements**

Upon receiving your PPE you will be responsible for the care, maintenance and inspection and for ensuring you have the equipment available for use when it is needed or required. Always wear the equipment in a manner that provides the intended protection. Making any alteration or modification to PPE is prohibited. If equipment is defective, replace it immediately.

### **Departmental Requirements**

Each department has requirements that pertain to their work areas, jobs and related tasks. Many railroad employees are trained in and required to perform duties in multiple departments. It is each employee's responsibility to know and adhere to the PPE requirements for any job or tasks they perform.

### **Site-specific Requirements**

Certain locations, such as shop areas, may have specific requirements for PPE like hard hats, for example. Such requirements will typically be identified by a sign, and will apply to ALL employees, regardless of craft.

### **Task-specific Requirements**

There are also task-specific requirements for PPE, such as face shields for use when grinding, special gloves for chemical handling or electrical work, and clothing for burning and welding. Review procedures for the task, and the label information or Safety Data Sheet for chemicals.

