

Jason Mechanical Corp

Tool Box Safety Talk

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Protective clothing must be worn when there is an exposure, or potential exposure, to hazardous conditions. The most important lesson one could learn about protective clothing is it must be appropriate for the hazard. Hazardous conditions generally would be chemical or mechanical, however temperature extremes too are hazardous conditions. This is particularly true on many job sites where you are exposed directly to the elements or limited weather protection is available.

Another consideration in the selection of protective clothing is whether the actual job may be accomplished in a comfortable and suitable manner. For example, does the clothing offer protection without being bulky, hot, or unmanageable? You cannot wear bulky gloves to do delicate work. The actual hazard protection needs, job needs, and personal needs must be matched.

A well prepared Material Safety Data Sheet, or Safety Data Sheet, will indicate the appropriate clothing (and other personal protection equipment) required. These guidelines must be followed and if there is any question, your supervisor must be asked. Never take chances with your own personal safety.

Do not use the wearing of protective clothing as an excuse for sloppy work. Just because clothing, for example is acid resistant, does not mean acid can be thrown around (an exaggeration) or because a disposable suit is used that good housekeeping is not required -- it is!

One should exercise care in the cleaning and/or disposal of contaminated protective clothing. Contaminated disposable clothing should be treated as contaminated waste and properly disposed of.

Some types of protective clothing can be re-used. Protective clothing that has not been exposed to hazardous materials should be cleaned and properly stored after use.

Protective clothing to prevent mechanical injury (protection from flying pieces of metal, for example) should be inspected to insure its integrity.

Know under what conditions protective clothing should be worn, where to find it, how to dispose of it, and/or how to clean and store it.

The whole idea of protective clothing is to protect your body from injury, both internal and external, to protect those around you, and to provide a means of not taking hazards in the workplace out of the workplace.

Safety Concerns:
