

SUITED FOR SAFETY

Suitable personal protective equipment should be used to prevent serious injuries on any job that you may perform, at the University of Arkansas, or at home. Some equipment is necessary only for particular types of operation, while other protective items are almost always appropriate.

Eyes, for example, are extremely delicate. Goggles or a face shield should be worn when you are cutting concrete, or using a power saw. Suitable goggles are also helpful when you are engaged in overhead drilling or when excessive dust is present. When you work around concrete vibrators, safety glasses or a face shield will prevent most splashes from reaching your eyes. Ordinary eyeglasses may be broken or damaged if goggles are not worn over them. These “cover-all” goggles may be made of plastic or may be an oversize cup.

Respirators prevent nose and throat irritations when you are working in dust conditions. There will be a lot of dust when you handle cement in bulk or load concrete mixers. When you are applying waterproof coatings, especially in small enclosed areas, you should wear a respirator, as well as on all spray painting jobs. The kind of respirator you will wear depends on the nature of the spray you are using.

Avoiding serious fall injuries depends on assuring that all fall prevention and arrest devices, are maintained in top-notch condition.

Hard hats are a must and should be worn by all workers who are exposed to the danger of flying, falling and moving objects. In fact hard hats must be used when there is **any** over-head hazards, or dangers

Rubber boots, preferably with hard toes, and puncture-proof inner soles protect your feet and legs from wet concrete. Kneepads should be worn by cement finishers and any other workers who have to be on their knees while working.

I'm sure every one of us can think of some past occasion when an injury occurred that would *not* have happened if the worker had been wearing the proper protective equipment

So protect yourself. Keep yourself safe by using the right personal protective equipment, even when it will be needed only for a short time.