

Executive Summary

THE BGSU PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PROGRAM

In 1970, the United States Congress established the right of workers to "safe and healthful working conditions" through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In July 1994, Federal OSHA standards became effective for Ohio public employers, including Bowling Green State University and other state agencies through the Ohio Public Employee Risk Reduction Act. On October 7th of that same year, the BGSU Board of Trustees established the following policy: "It is Bowling Green State University's policy to comply with the occupational safety and health standards of the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act and all applicable Federal, State and Local rules, regulations and directives."

Personal Protective Equipment is one of the OSHA standards adopted under the Ohio Public Employees Risk Reduction Act. This standard details specific provisions for personal protective equipment in the workplace. The standard requires the development of a written Personal Protective Equipment Program, a document describing steps to protect employees from the health and physical hazards associated with their work environment. Work place hazards that may require the use of personal protective equipment include but are not limited to: noise, dust heat, electricity, light radiation, chemical exposure and objects that may pinch/crush/puncture/cut/fall. The Personal Protective Equipment Program outlines safe practices and procedures for personal protective equipment use by BGSU employees.

The objective of the Personal Protective Equipment Program is to prevent exposure to work place hazards. This program applies to all University employees, including Firelands, whose duties require the use of personal protective equipment. The program provides guidelines for hazard assessments, personal protective equipment selection, employee training and personal protective equipment cleaning and maintenance. The program also identifies responsible parties. Department supervisors are responsible for attending training and reassessment, performing hazard assessments of their employees' work environment, fitting and providing personal protective equipment at no cost to the employee, training employees on the use of their personal protective equipment, and enforcement of this program. The employee is responsible for attending training, properly cleaning, maintaining and inspecting the provided equipment as stated in the program. The Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety, is Bowling Green State University's Personal Protective Equipment Program advisor.

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