

SOP: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements for Waste Handling

This SOP details the **personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for waste handling** to ensure the safety and health of personnel involved in managing and disposing of waste. It includes guidelines on selecting appropriate PPE such as gloves, masks, goggles, and protective clothing, proper usage and maintenance of equipment, safe handling practices to minimize exposure to hazardous substances, and protocols for training and compliance monitoring. The objective is to prevent injuries, contamination, and occupational illnesses by enforcing strict PPE standards during all waste handling operations.

1. Scope

This SOP applies to all staff and contractors involved in the handling, transportation, and disposal of waste materials across all facility areas.

2. Responsibilities

- **Supervisors/Managers:** Ensure staff compliance, provide necessary PPE, and arrange for required training.
- **Personnel:** Use PPE correctly, report defects, and adhere to safe work practices.
- **Safety Officer:** Monitor compliance, investigate incidents, and review SOP annually.

3. Required PPE for Waste Handling

PPE Item	Purpose	Examples/Specifications
Gloves	Protect hands from hazardous waste and sharp objects.	Chemical-resistant (nitrile, latex), cut-resistant where necessary
Masks/Respirators	Prevent inhalation of hazardous fumes, dust, and aerosols.	Surgical masks, N95 respirators, half/full-face respirator for chemical waste
Goggles/Safety Glasses	Shield eyes from splashes, particulates, and chemical exposure.	Indirect vent goggles, splash-proof safety glasses
Protective Clothing	Prevent contamination and injury to body and skin.	Lab coats, disposable overalls, chemical-resistant aprons
Foot Protection	Protect feet from spills, sharp objects, heavy items.	Closed-toe shoes, steel-toe boots, chemical-resistant boots

4. PPE Selection and Use Guidelines

1. Assess the type of waste and associated hazards before selecting PPE.
2. Don appropriate PPE before entering waste handling areas.
3. Inspect PPE for damage before each use; do not use defective equipment.
4. Follow safe donning and doffing procedures to minimize exposure risk.
5. Never reuse single-use/disposable PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, overalls).
6. Decontaminate reusable PPE as per manufacturer guidelines after each use.

5. Training Requirements

- All personnel must complete initial and annual PPE training, covering:
 - Proper PPE selection and usage
 - Safe handling and disposal of PPE
 - Emergency procedures in case of exposure
- Records of PPE training must be maintained and available for inspection.

6. Compliance Monitoring

- Supervisors conduct regular inspections to ensure PPE is used correctly.
- Non-compliance is addressed immediately with corrective action and retraining as needed.

- Incident reports involving PPE failures or exposures are investigated promptly.

7. References

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I, Personal Protective Equipment
- Company/Facility-specific waste handling procedures and policies

8. Revision & Review

- This SOP is reviewed annually and updated as required based on regulatory changes or incident findings.