

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use for Waste Handlers

This SOP details the proper use of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** for waste handlers, emphasizing the selection, inspection, correct usage, maintenance, and disposal of PPE to minimize exposure to hazardous materials and reduce the risk of injury or contamination. It covers types of PPE required, protocols for donning and doffing, hygiene practices, training requirements, and compliance with safety standards to ensure the health and safety of all personnel involved in waste handling operations.

1. Purpose

To ensure all waste handlers utilize PPE correctly to protect against hazards associated with waste handling, and to comply with applicable safety standards and regulations.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all personnel involved in waste collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal.

3. Responsibilities

- **Supervisors:** Ensure availability and proper condition of PPE; provide training.
- **Employees:** Use PPE as instructed; report damaged PPE; maintain hygiene.
- **Safety Officer:** Monitor compliance and update SOP as needed.

4. Required PPE Types

PPE Item	Purpose	Examples
Gloves	Hand protection from sharps, chemicals, biological hazards	Nitrile, rubber, cut-resistant gloves
Safety Goggles/Face Shields	Eye & face protection from splashes and debris	Impact/splash-resistant goggles, visors
Protective Clothing	Body protection from contamination	Coveralls, aprons, gowns
Respirators / Masks	Respiratory protection from dust, fumes, pathogens	N95 mask, surgical mask, half/full face respirator
Safety Shoes/Boots	Foot protection from punctures and spills	Steel-toed boots, waterproof shoes
Head Protection	Protection from falling objects	Hard hats

5. Procedure

1. **Selection:**
 - Choose PPE based on the type of waste, risk assessment, regulatory requirements, and compatibility with other PPE.
2. **Inspection:**
 - Check PPE for damage, wear, or contamination before use.
 - Replace defective/disposable items immediately.
3. **Donning (Putting On PPE):**
 - a. Wash hands before donning PPE.
 - b. Put on items in the following order: clothing/coverall → boots → mask/respirator → goggles/face shield → gloves.
 - c. Ensure proper fit and seal of each item.
4. **Doffing (Removing PPE):**
 - a. Remove PPE carefully to avoid self-contamination (reverse donning order).
 - b. Dispose of single-use PPE in designated bins; disinfect reusable items.
 - c. Wash hands thoroughly after doffing.
5. **Maintenance and Storage:**

- Clean reusable PPE according to manufacturer's guidelines.
- Store PPE in a clean, dry, and accessible location.

6. Disposal:

- Dispose of contaminated/single-use PPE in accordance with local biohazard or hazardous waste protocols.

6. Hygiene and Decontamination

- Perform hand hygiene before and after PPE use.
- Decontaminate any PPE that may be reused.
- Shower/change clothes as required after handling hazardous waste.

7. Training

- All waste handlers must receive initial and periodic training on correct PPE use and SOP review.
- Training records must be maintained.

8. Compliance

- Compliance with local, state, and federal regulations and recognized safety standards (e.g., OSHA, WHO) is mandatory.
- Any incidents, non-compliance, or PPE failures must be reported immediately.

9. Document Control

- This SOP should be reviewed and updated annually or as required by changes in regulations or workplace conditions.

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____