

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

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Personal Protective Equipment

-Personal Protective Equipment includes clothing, helmets, goggles or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection. It is used to reduce exposure for employees to potential hazards.

-The hazards addressed by the PPE include physical, heat, chemicals, biohazards and airborne particulate matter.

5 ways to get workers to use PPE.

- 1 – Lead by Example – If leadership isn't willing to use PPE on the job, you can't expect employees to use it. Don't say one thing and do another.
- 2 – Educate – When employees know the reasoning behind a certain policy, they are more likely to adhere to it.
- 3 – Use Proper Equipment – The easier the equipment is to use and maintain the more likely it will be used.
- 4 – Open Communication – Listen to employees and involve them in the process of choosing the equipment they will be using and follow up to make sure it is working for them.
- 5 – Enforce Policies - Over time people get complacent and if the policies are not enforced everyday , the PPE could be used improperly or eventually, not at all.

Claims Example: *Employee was cutting branches along the side of a road to help improve visibility and did not have a hard hat on as was required.. A limb snapped and came down on his head causing a concussion and spinal injuries. He has had several back surgeries and the insertion of a prosthetic into his spine. These injuries could cause problems for the rest of his life. The total cost of this claim between the JIF file and MEL file is over \$400,000.*

