

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) used in emergency management activities refers to clothing and equipment worn for the purposes of:

1. protecting workers from injury/illness as a result of hazards
2. preventing the spread of pests and diseases.

PPE is considered the lowest level of protection and least reliable control measure when treating hazards according to the 'hierarchy of risk control' in the Code of Practice '[How to manage work health and safety risks](#)'.

Types

- Refer to Appendix 1 in [Decontamination kits for personnel](#)

Selection and supply

- PPE required for a task is detailed in risk assessments, safe work method statements, operational plans and/or procedures
- Appropriate PPE will be sourced and supplied by the Logistics section using task requests
- PPE is issued to individuals and recorded on the [PPE register](#)
- PPE must comply and be marked with the current relevant Australian Standards, where relevant
- Various sizes and styles may be available and should be fitted to individuals. Some individuals may have specific requirements to accommodate, eg goggles over glasses.

Training

- Personnel must be trained in the correct selection, fit, use, cleaning, maintenance and disposal of PPE
- Refer to the presentation [Personal decontamination for property visits](#) for details on donning and doffing PPE when entering/exiting a property
- Records of training must be kept

Use

- Personnel must use the PPE as instructed
- Supervisors should assess the effectiveness of the PPE when in use
- Failures or inadequacies in PPE should be reported to supervisors and via the department's incident notification form

Replacement, maintenance, storage and disposal

- Damaged or deficient PPE must be replaced
- PPE must be stored and maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations. Keep records of maintenance of equipment, eg Purified Air Powered Respiratory (PAPR) equipment
- Shared PPE must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition
- PPE that cannot be effectively decontaminated must be disposed of safely

Records

- Equipment registers for stores
- Incident notification (online Department of Industry form)
- [PAPR maintenance & usage log](#)
- [PPE register](#)
- Risk assessments, safe work method statements, operational plans, procedures
- Task requests – for purchase (by Logistics) or supply to the field
- Training and fit testing records

Further information

- Fact sheet – [Personal protective equipment](#)
- Fact sheet – [Safe work methods and procedures](#)
- [Decontamination kits for personnel](#)
- Code of Practice '[How to manage work health and safety risks](#)'