

## 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 the guide [Personal decontamination](#)

### 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 in the Resource Management System (RMS) or [PPE register](#)
- PPE must comply and be marked with the current 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, e.g. goggles over glasses.

### Training

- Personnel must be trained in the correct selection, fit, use, cleaning, maintenance and disposal of PPE
- Refer to training module in [EMtrain](#) *Personal decontamination and protective equipment* for details on PPE including donning and doffing PPE when entering/exiting a property

### Use

- Personnel must use the PPE and record use as instructed e.g. [Powered Air Purifying Respirator \(PAPR\) usage log](#)
- Supervisors should provide adequate supervision and 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, e.g. Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) equipment in RMS
- Shared PPE must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition
- PPE that cannot be effectively decontaminated must be disposed of safely