

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  
*Safety Training Handout for Land Fill, Road, Weed &  
Maintenance Dept.*

Examples of possible risks to you in the workplace could  
include:

- Vehicle Accidents
- Slivers, puncture wounds, bruises, amputations, severed arteries, and broken bones
- Eye damage, blindness and hearing loss
- Burns, internal bleeding and permanent skin damage
- Chemical exposure, electrical shock

■ You can protect yourself through the use of PPE:

- Seatbelts
- Goggles, face shields and safety glasses protect your eyes
- Ear plugs and muffs protect your hearing
- Gloves protect your hands
- Dust masks can prevent fine debris and particles from entering your body
- Hard hats protect your head
- Protective clothing, such as chainsaw chaps, guards your body
- Safe work boots protect your feet

• Damaged Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will not protect you:

- **All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be inspected** before each shift for cracks, tears, scuffs or other damage or wear that may make the equipment ineffective. Keep your PPE clean!!! **Example** - Don't leave earmuffs hanging to collect dust, store them in a clean dry place or in a sealed plastic bag. **DO NOT** modify your PPE unless alterations are approved.
- Using damaged Personal Protective Equipment can result in the same type of injuries as those that could occur if you were not wearing any type of PPE at all. If you believe your personal protective equipment is damaged, turn it in to your supervisor for disposal and replacement.
- Here are some examples of what you should be looking for:
  - Scratches on protective eyewear not only interfere with your ability to see what you are doing, they can weaken the structure of the lenses and their resistance to impact. Using glasses when lenses are broken can cause even greater injury, potentially to other body parts
  - Gloves that are badly worn, with cracked coatings, cut or torn material, will not protect you adequately from punctures or cuts
  - Hard hats that are cracked will not offer you adequate protection from head injuries
  - Work boots with separated or badly worn soles, will not protect you from toxic spills, slip hazards, or electrical contact
  - Protective clothing, such as chainsaw chaps that are ripped or damaged, will not offer adequate protection for your body from injuries they are designed to prevent