

Module - Personal Protective Equipment

Overview

Firefighters have the personal responsibility of assuring that their PPE is worn correctly and at the appropriate times. This module will focus on the need for awareness on the incorrect use of PPE, specifically gloves and sleeves.

Facilitator Quick Checklist

The following are the most important tasks that should be considered before implementing this module:

- ✓ **Preview the Personal Protective Equipment Module on the DVD**

1 min


-  **Introduce module overview listed above.**

9 min

-  **Play DVD Module: Personal Protective Equipment**



DVD

1 min

-  **Ask students to refer to the student worksheets. The questions were taken from eleven actual questions asked of Nevada BLM Firefighters in 2010 during a Safety Stand Down.**

SW

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Time	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Divide the class in half; assign the first group questions 1, 2, 3, and 4. Assign the second group to questions 5, 6, 7, and 8. Inform both groups to be prepared to discuss their responses. Give them 10 minutes to prepare their answers. 	
5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Facilitate a discussion by reading each question out loud and ask for responses. The consolidated responses are from the actual questionnaire and are included below. Use these as discussion points as the groups discuss their responses. 	SW
	<p>(1) What is the policy on wearing gloves?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear gloves at all times on wildfire assignment except cold trailing or as needed for position (radio use, documentation, etc). PPE must be used and used properly per Chapter 07, Red Book and JHA/RA. • Employees must be trained to use safety equipment effectively. PPE devices will be used only when equipment guards, engineering controls or management controls do not adequately protect employees. • Newer employees were given direction to wear your gloves at all times or have them in an easy to deploy area. The more experienced employees leaned toward having the sense to make the personal call on “glove or no glove” under different situations. <p>(2) When is it acceptable to not wear gloves?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acceptable to not wear gloves when mission-critical dexterity is needed. Example: tuning a chainsaw, adjusting chain tension, cold trailing/ gridding. It is also acceptable to not wear gloves when gloves aren’t necessary, i.e. as a lookout, when not performing in direct suppression operations, when tools are sheathed/ taped and hiking into a fire, and/or no threat of injury or not required by JHA/RA. <p>(3) How do you ensure that PPE is correctly used/available at the immediate time you need to use it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill and train with it on and generally you are wearing it all the time. Carry extra gloves and make extra available to all. Purchase good PPE that fits and employees will wear. Require it to be worn always. • During PM checks/daily inspections in the morning check for proper PPE. -While on a fire before exiting vehicle to engage, take the extra second to again check all crew members PPE. Include reminder in briefings and do routine checks. Remind that there is not enough time to put it on when “you really need”. 	

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(4) You are the State FMO or District FMO. What is your solution to ensure all employees wear PPE correctly and at the correct times?

- Be proactive in setting reasonable guidelines/local policy for PPE use and enforcing good habits by positive reinforcement, awards etc..., keep punitive to minimum. Support purchase of PPE that employees will wear on a regular basis. Make fireline visits and require subordinates to visit active fires. Review current policies and disciplinary actions and assure those are covered in preseason trainings and meetings and EPAPs and delegations to Incident Commanders.

(5) As a crew leader, what is your responsibility to ensure that PPE is worn?

- If one person on the crew is out of compliance then the whole crew is, so assure all crew members have appropriate PPE in good working order. Give crew members a thorough briefing and ensure PPE is available and issued as well as used by subordinates. Include PPE use in AARs.

(6) Is punitive action acceptable for not complying with existing PPE policies?

- Yes, following repeated non-compliance, disregard for safety as well as reckless behavior.
- No, enforcing punitive action would provide little or no positive outcome and bring on a fear of reporting and distract from tasks at hand and cause more of a safety issue. Employees need to feel they are backed by their agency.

(7) Are there other methods for not complying with PPE policies?

- Crew and or individuals can be given training on proper use as well as verbal or written warnings. Include in internal crew policies. Crews and individuals caught not complying with policies you can be released from the incident early. Managers and leaders have to be held with some responsibility for the safety of their program. On the spot fixes in public and return and spot check violators.

(8) You are the State FMO or District FMO. What is your solution to ensure all employees wear PPE correctly and at the correct times?

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*Estimate
Total
Time:
30
min*