



INTEGRATED  
WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
BOARD

# Personal Protective Equipment at Solid Waste Landfills

## FACT SHEET

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) provides this information as a tool for solid waste business and industry employees to use while conducting day-to-day operations. By using this fact sheet, the CIWMB hopes to increase the reader's understanding of how, when, and where to use personal protective equipment.

### **Title 27, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section (§) 20590. Personnel Health and Safety**

Operating and maintenance personnel shall wear and use appropriate safety equipment as required by the EA (enforcement agency).

All facilities should have an injury and illness prevention program (IIPP), which is required by Title 8 of the CCR. Although enforcement agencies (EA) and CIWMB staff are not authorized to enforce these requirements, the information regarding appropriate health and safety gear, as approved by Cal/OSHA, should be contained in this document. 27 CCR §20590 indicates that the EA has the authority to require additional personal protective gear as the EA deems necessary. However, since the section was written it has been determined that this requirement is within the jurisdiction of Cal/OSHA.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is required when performing certain tasks at solid waste landfills. No single combination of protective equipment and clothing is capable of protecting against all hazards. Thus, PPE should be used in conjunction with other protective methods. All facility staff should follow proper procedure and wear the required personal protection to ensure their safety and the safety of those working around them.

For safe use of personal protective devices, employees should be properly instructed in selection, use, and maintenance. Following is a list of suggested PPE to be used by solid waste landfill staff.

### **Eye Protection**

Eye protection should be worn whenever there is danger of physical, biological or chemical injury to the eyes. This type of PPE can include: safety glasses (prescription or non-prescription, clear or tinted) and/or safety goggles.



### **Hand Protection**

To prevent toxic or irritating substances from coming into contact with the skin, adequate hand protection should be used. Glove selection should be made based on chemical compatibility.





### Head Protection

To protect the employee's head from impact and penetration of falling objects, hard hats should be worn as standard practice.

### Special Clothing

High visibility clothing, such as the safety vests shown above, should be provided for all staff, particularly those exposed to traffic hazards.



### Foot Protection

To protect the foot against rolling objects and against the hazard of accidentally kicking or stepping on sharp objects, adequate foot protection should be used. Foot protection should, as a minimum, include steel-toed and/or steel mid-sole impermeable boots.

### Hearing Protection

Whenever noise levels are suspected to exceed 85 decibels (dBA), hearing protection should

be used. Hearing protection consists of ear-plugs or earmuffs.



### Respiratory Protection

To protect against airborne contaminants, use of respiratory protection may be required. Particle masks are helpful with dust and large grain contaminants, but are not effective for hazardous vapors or liquids.



For further guidance on this issue, please contact your local enforcement agency (LEA). If you are not sure who your LEA is, please visit our LEA Directory web page at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LEACentral/LEADirectory/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LEACentral/LEADirectory/). You can also contact the California Integrated Waste Management Board's Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program for additional information at (916) 341-6360. Please also visit the Cal/OSHA website at [www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/dosh1.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/dosh1.html).

### Related Statutes and Regulations

- Title 8 CCR

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