

# PPE for Chemical Exposure

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for chemical work is identified with four levels of workplace hazards. Your supervisor or safety representative can help you choose the right protective clothing for the job.



*PPE for Level A completely shields your skin, eyes and respiratory system from contact with anything in the environment.*

## LEVEL A—EXTREME HAZARD

PPE for this highest level of respiratory hazard protects you from high concentrations of extremely hazardous substances. PPE for Level A completely shields your skin, eyes and respiratory system from contact with anything in the environment. The following elements are mandatory at Level A:

- ▶ pressure-demand, self-contained breathing apparatus
- ▶ fully enclosed, chemical-resistant suit that prevents the environment from coming into contact with your skin
- ▶ built-in inner and outer chemical-resistant gloves and boots

You would wear this type of protective equipment when entering an uncontrolled hazardous waste site, a site where toxic chemicals are burning or where hazardous substances are suspected. You may also wear a hard hat inside the suit. Level A protective clothing requires special training and an assistant to help you put it on correctly.

## LEVEL B—BREATHING HAZARD

Environments at this level contain known hazards that are unsafe to breathe, as in Level A, but are less toxic to the skin. Thus, you're not required to wear a fully enclosed suit. PPE for Level B includes:

- ▶ pressure-demand, self-contained breathing apparatus
- ▶ chemical-resistant clothing, such as coveralls, hooded chemical splash suit or disposable chemical-resistant coveralls
- ▶ inner and outer chemical-resistant gloves and boots

Use Level B for entering areas where the chemical hazard is known or where the environment is oxygen deficient.

## LEVEL C—BREATHING HAZARD REDUCED

Level C requires the same clothing protection as Level B—chemical-resistant clothing, gloves and boots—but offers a lower level of respiratory protection. You'll be equipped with a full-face air-purifying respirator or a half-face respirator with splash goggles. Operations such as spray painting, pesticide spraying or work with toxic fumes, dusts and gases require Level C protection.

## LEVEL D

No respiratory hazard exists at Level D. Level D protects from a variety of physical hazards. PPE depends on the job you do and the workplace and may include coveralls, chemical-resistant boots and gloves, safety glasses or splash goggles, disposable outer boots, face shield, hard hat, hearing protection or a five-minute escape bottle for unexpected respiratory hazards.