

PPE: Dress to Protect

Someone braving out into a frigid winter's day gears up with gloves, a hat, a scarf, and a warm coat. A football player suits up with a helmet, shoulder and body pads, and a mouthpiece before a game. A gardener wears long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

All of these people dress to protect themselves from the hazards in their environment. The same goes for security officers who work at sites where hazardous materials are used, manufactured, transported or stored or where hazardous conditions exist.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Some client sites can occasionally be dangerous places, like when temporary construction is taking place. Others—like petrochemical and chemical facilities—are hazardous by nature and potential dangers exist on site at all times. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to assess workplace hazards and determine what precautions are needed to help minimize injury to workers.

Workplaces use engineering, work-practice and administrative controls to eliminate or reduce the hazards on site. When these do not eliminate the hazard, personal protective equipment (PPE) is required. This means that PPE is the last barrier or line of defense between the wearer and the hazard.



PPE is generally categorized by

- the body part it protects—head, eye and face, hand and arm, foot and leg, body, and respiratory protection
- the hazard type—electrical, chemical, fall arrest

As a security officer, you may have a number of responsibilities regarding PPE. Depending on your assignment, you may be required to

- wear PPE
- issue PPE to people who are allowed access to a given area and collect it when they leave
- observe and report individuals who are violating PPE requirements
- do any or all of the above



Almost every Securitas security officer uses some sort of PPE on the job ranging from winter gloves, seatbelts and reflective vests to hard hats, safety goggles and respiratory devices. But even the highest-level PPE cannot protect you if you don't wear it.

Your post orders and on-site training inform you of any and all required PPE for your assigned post. These requirements can vary as site conditions change. It is critical that you know what your PPE requirements are and that you wear the appropriate PPE whenever and wherever it is required.

For more detailed information about PPE, check out the e-learning course, *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Overview* on our LMS.

Safety and Security

Many of our client sites devote large amounts of time and resources developing programs to ensure safe work habits. You may be required to take part in Site Orientation and Basic Safety programs. And you may even be responsible for administering site-specific safety programs to visitors, employees, or contractors.

Every job site is different. Each has its own safety and security policies and procedures specific to its function, location and the hazards that exist there.

The details about your job requirements and your role as a security officer are in your post orders and site-specific training.

Hazard Communication

Chemicals are present in just about every workplace at varying levels. One of the most common uses of PPE is to protect the wearer from chemical hazards.

Container labels provide information on a chemical's potential hazards and precautions to take when handling it. Labels can tell you a lot about a chemical in a brief space (see attached).

More thorough information can be found on the chemical's material safety data sheet (MSDS).

Every MSDS includes details about:

- The name(s) of the chemical and the company that manufactures it
- Hazards and potential health effects
- How to use, store and dispose of the material safely
- How to recognize symptoms of overexposure
- First aid and emergency procedures

MSDSs are kept in specific locations on site such as the main gate entrance or the officer station.

The spot will likely be clearly marked so MSDSs can be located quickly and easily.

The Securitas *Hazard Communication* e-learning course on our LMS provides an in-depth look at this topic along with interactive exercises, quizzes and an exam.

Note: Securitas USA, in all respects, complies with applicable state and federal laws pertaining to the wearing of PPE. If PPE is necessary for a particular site, employees should check with HR to ensure compliance with wage/hour laws.

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not contain Securitas USA's complete policy and procedures. For more information, contact your Securitas USA supervisor or account manager.



Chemical Name

Gasoline

CAS Number

8006-61-9

A number assigned by Chemical Abstracts Service to identify a specific chemical

DANGER

Hazard

HEALTH HAZARDS: Flammable

Health Hazards

ORGAN HAZARDS: Eyes, skin, respiratory system, central nervous system, liver, kidneys

Organ Hazards

Organs that may be affected by the chemical



CONSULT MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HAZARDS



RATINGS	
4	- Extreme
3	- Serious
2	- Moderate
1	- Slight
0	- Minimal

Ratings

Number association for severity level of chemical in its hazard category

NFPA Diamond

Level of hazard in a given category

Pictograms

Required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Example of 3" x 5" NFPA Label

HAZARDOUS INFORMATION GUIDE

HEALTH HAZARD

- 4 EXTREME** - Highly toxic - May be fatal on short-term exposure.
- 3 SERIOUS** - Toxic - Full protective suit and breathing apparatus should be worn.
- 2 MODERATE** - Breathing apparatus and face mask must be worn.
- 1 SLIGHT** - Breathing apparatus may be worn.
- 0 MINIMAL** - No precautions necessary.

FLAMMABILITY HAZARD

- 4 EXTREME** - Extremely flammable gas or liquid. Flash Point below 73°F.
- 3 SERIOUS** - Flammable. Flash Point 73°F to 100°F.
- 2 MODERATE** - Combustible. Requires moderate heating to ignite. Flash Point below 200°F.
- 1 SLIGHT** - Slightly combustible. Requires strong heating to ignite.
- 0 MINIMAL** - Will not burn under normal conditions.

SPECIFIC HAZARD

- OXIDIZER **OXY**
- ACID **ACID**
- ALKALI **ALK**
- CORROSIVE **COR**
- Use NO WATER **W**
- RADIATION

INSTABILITY HAZARD

- 4 EXTREME** - Explosive at room temperature.
- 3 SERIOUS** - May detonate if shocked or heated under confinement or mixed with water.
- 2 MODERATE** - Unstable. May react with water.
- 1 SLIGHT** - May react if heated or mixed with water.
- 0 MINIMAL** - Normally stable. Does not react with water.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT SYMBOLS

Apron	Face Shield
Safety Glasses	Vapor Respirator
Safety Goggles	Dust Respirator
Boots	Safety Suit
Gloves	Air Line Hood or Mask