

Chemicals are a major part of our operations both at our facilities and in the field. Examples include toxics, corrosives, solvents, laboratory chemicals and numerous other substances. We must always take proper precautions to ensure these substances can be handled safely.

“PPE Required During Chemical Handling Operation” signs must be in any areas we commonly encounter or work closely with these materials and all employees must adhere to the outlined PPE requirements.

Common Chemical Exposures

- **Inhalation:** Breathing in dusts, mists and vapors
 - **Example:** Working with muriatic acid in a poorly ventilated area without a respirator
- **Ingestion:** Eating or drinking near chemical areas
 - **Example:** Substance transferred to food or utensils by placing on/near surfaces where chemicals are stored/handled.
- **Absorption:** Skin contact with a chemical
 - **Example:** Contact dermatitis or eye irritation

Protecting Yourself Against Chemical Hazards

- Reading container labels, safety data sheets (SDSs) and safe-work instructions before you handle a chemical;
- Using specified personal protective equipment (PPE) as outlined in the **Chemical Handling Operation sign**.
- Inspecting all PPE before you use them. Look for defects in the equipment such as cracks, missing parts, rips, etc. Ensure your respirator has the proper chemical cartridge for the chemical hazard. Change cartridges when it is necessary;
- Knowing the location of safety showers and eyewash stations and how to use them;
- Washing your hands before eating, especially after handling chemicals;
- Leaving your contaminated clothing at work. If you wear the clothes at home, you can expose your family to the hazards.

PPE REQUIRED DURING CHEMICAL HANDLING OPERATION



ANYONE WITHIN 15' OF ACTIVE OPERATION, MUST BE IN THE SAME PPE

