



068: PPE-Rubber

Why this is important

Your rubber PPE is the only thing between you and energized equipment.

Deficient or improperly used rubber PPE may result in debilitating burns, loss of hearing, sight, limbs or life.

Safety checklist

Inspect the work area and determine what PPE equipment you need to safely complete the task. If you have any doubts or questions, ask your foreman.

Obtain the proper PPE for the task. If it's not available, don't substitute. There is a reason specific types of PPE exist.

If your rubber PPE is stored in an environment that is significantly different from the work environment, allow the PPE to acclimate to the work conditions before removing from the bag, tube or other storage unit. For example, suppose your gloves and sleeves are in your service truck and it is cold outside but you are working inside. Allow your rubber PPE some time to warm up to room temperature before removing PPE from the bag, tube, or case. Otherwise, moisture may condense on the surface of your PPE and may provide a conductive path for current to flow.

Visually inspect your PPE before use. If there are any signs of damage or you have any doubt about the condition of the PPE, do not use it until it has been tested and certified safe.

Look for a test or certification date and verify it is current.

Check the voltage rating of the PPE you are using and verify that it meets or exceeds the voltage rating of the equipment you are servicing.

Inflate gloves with a glove inflator to identify small pinhole leaks. If a glove is damaged, destroy it so nobody accidentally uses it.

PPE equipment will only work if you use it and wear it as intended. All straps, ties and harnesses must be in place and adjusted to fit the user.

Never wear your rubber gloves without the leather outer glove. The leather gloves prevent the rubber gloves from being damaged by sharp edges you may encounter when working.

Use rubber mats to protect you from energized equipment. Do not use them as floor mats—doing so will damage them.

Secure rubber mats in place to prevent movement while working.

If the PPE gets dirty, refer to the manufacturer's instructions for the proper method of cleaning. Solvents may damage the rubber. Some cleaners may leave a residue that will provide a conductive path. If in doubt, contact the manufacturer.

Always return your PPE to its container after use to prevent loss or damage.

Store PPE properly. Roll up mats and return them to their tubes. Do not fold gloves or sleeves. Do not throw your gloves or other PPE in your tool bag—the weight and edges of tools may damage PPE if they slide around against it. The first person to notice the subsequent damage to your PPE might be the coroner or the forensic engineer investigating an electrocution.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Bring several items of safety equipment including gloves, sleeves, mat, and glove inflator.

What this Safety Talk covers:

The proper procedures for the care and use of rubber PPE.

Discussion notes :

