Personal Protective Equipment – Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

Key hazards related to the use and misuse of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. **Improper Fit and Usage:** PPE that does not fit properly can compromise protection. For example, gloves that are too large may get caught in machinery.
2. **Lack of Training on PPE:** Workers who are not adequately trained in the correct use of PPE may not wear it correctly or consistently, reducing its effectiveness.
3. **Inadequate PPE for Specific Tasks:** Using the wrong type of PPE for specific tasks can expose workers to hazards.
4. **Heat Stress from PPE:** Wearing PPE in hot weather can contribute to heat stress, particularly if the equipment is heavy or limits ventilation. This is a significant concern in landscaping, where outdoor work often occurs in high temperatures.
5. **Restricted Mobility and Vision:** Some types of PPE, like face shields or bulky gloves, can restrict movement or obscure vision, increasing the risk of accidents, such as tripping or falling.
6. **Complacency and Overreliance on PPE:** Workers may become complacent and over-reliant on PPE, neglecting other safety measures like proper equipment handling or hazard awareness.
7. **PPE Maintenance Issues:** Failure to regularly inspect, clean, and replace PPE can lead to its deterioration.

STATS

- Failure to properly wear PPE is consistently listed among the top 15 violations in the landscaping services.
- Common injuries in landscaping include cuts, burns, and musculoskeletal injuries. The improper use of PPE contributes significantly to these injuries. For instance, approximately 34% of landscaping injuries that resulted in workers’ compensation claims are related to tree work, where proper head and eye protection is essential.

- OSHA reports that in 2019, there were approximately 7,450 eye injuries alone in the broader construction and landscaping sectors.
- OSHA recorded over 2,000 citations for improper respiratory protection, which is critical in landscaping when handling pesticides and fertilizers.
- It’s estimated in landscaping that proper use of PPE could prevent up to 60% of injuries related to exposure to hazardous materials, machinery, and environmental conditions like extreme weather or noise.