

# Army *Safety* Gram

## Leading on the Edge for Safety *Excellence*

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### *Street Shoes Can't Do the Job*

Sometimes it is tempting to wear an old worn-out pair of dress shoes or runners when doing some heavy, dirty job. Your reasoning might be the old shoes are headed for the trash bin anyway so why not get some wear out of them at work.

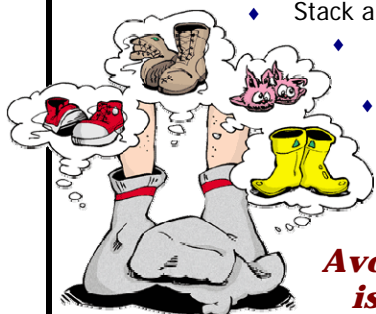
Unfortunately, the practice of wearing old shoes instead of safety shoes can have very serious consequences. There are many hazards to your foot safety at work. Heavy items can fall on your feet, cylinders and wheels can roll over them, electricity and harmful chemicals can contact your feet. It is important for you to choose and use the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for your feet.



#### *Follow these tips for protective footwear:*

- ♦ Wear the right kind of safety footwear. Ask your supervisor for advice.
- ♦ Even if your job doesn't require special protective footwear, at least wear sturdy, well-fitting shoes. Toe coverings should be impact-resistant, soles should be non-skid and heels should be low. Make sure shoes are fastened and keep them in good repair.
- ♦ For many kinds of jobs, safety-toed boots will be required. These have a metal insole to protect you if you step on a sharp object. They have reinforced toes to protect you from falling or rolling objects. The high top gives some protection to the ankles as well.
- ♦ If you work around electricity, you will need shoes made of non-conducting material such as rubber. There should be no metal used in this footwear, and you must be careful not to pick up nails or other metal objects in the soles.
- ♦ In certain job situations where static electricity is a hazard, you may be required to use footwear made of a conductive material. This is to prevent the build-up of a static charge which could set off an explosion in a flammable atmosphere or could damage electronic equipment.
- ♦ Shoes made of rubber or vinyl may be required in wet work conditions, and wooden soles may also be used.
- ♦ Heat resistant soles, such as cork, may be needed for walking on hot surfaces.
- ♦ If you work around chemicals, you will need footwear made of a particular type of material to match each chemical hazard. Natural rubber or synthetic neoprene are two of the possible types of footwear when you work around corrosive chemicals. If you choose the wrong type of material, the chemical can damage or leak through it.
- ♦ Use insulated footwear to protect against temperature extremes.

#### *Follow these measures to avoid foot hazards at work:*



- ♦ Stack and store materials safely so they cannot fall.
- ♦ Put tools and equipment away as soon as you are finished using them. Never leave tools or other heavy items on the edges of workbenches.
- ♦ Keep scrap and trash cleaned up, so you do not step on sharp objects.
- ♦ Follow instructions for safe storage and use of chemicals.
- ♦ Stay in pedestrian lanes to avoid in-plant vehicles.

***Avoid the temptation to wear ordinary shoes when safety footwear is called for. You might save yourself from a serious foot injury.***