Hard Body Vests: Used in situations where there is potential exposure to live ammunition and shrapnel

- Usually worn over the clothes
- Also known as a “ballistic vest,” “bulletproof vest,” “flak jacket” or “bullet-resistant armor”
- Should fit tightly under your armpits and around your neck.
- Neck/torso exposure can lead to life-threatening injuries

**ADVANTAGES**

- Protects the torso, neck, groin and shoulders from life threatening injuries
- Visible deterrent
- PRESS badges can typically be added/removed as the situation requires

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Heavy and restrictive
- Expensive
- Custom (Import/Export) restrictions
- Raises your visible profile in most environments

*Be sure to check your local and national standards for what is allowable and accessible*
PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

Protective eyewear safeguards your eyes from liquids, gasses, smoke, sand, dust and other potentially dangerous items.

**Protective eyewear should always**

- Fit properly and be securely fastened (behind the ears or with a strap)
- Be compatible with your other PPE you might need to wear (e.g. a face respirator)
- Be appropriate to the dangers you may face (e.g. rubber bullets require ballistic-grade eyewear)

**Eyewear considerations:**

- Are the lenses anti-scratch and anti-fog? Do they offer UV protection?
- Do they provide an airtight seal? (This is essential if you may be exposed to liquids, gas, chemicals or smoke.)
- Do they have a hard protective bridge above the eye line and to the side of the lenses?
- Do they have a non-slip nose bridge? (This applies to glasses only.)
- Though some eye protection can accommodate prescription lenses, it is usually more cost effective to purchase larger safety goggles that can be worn over your normal prescription glasses.

*Be sure to check your local and national standards for what is allowable and accessible. sourceofsafty.org*
When selecting protective headwear, always consider:

- What is the level of protection against the threats you might face?
- How far does the headwear extend down the back and sides of the cranium? The lower the helmet extends, the more protection it offers.
- Ventilation ports can potentially expose the cranium to projectiles. How many ports are there and how big are they?
- How compatible is the helmet with other PPE items (such as face respirators and safety goggles)?
- Does it include or accommodate other equipment worn on the head, such as night vision cameras or goggles?

*Be sure to check your local and national standards for what is allowable and accessible.*
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Protecting your lungs and throat is essential when working in a potentially hazardous environment.

Examples of what biological irritants you might encounter

- Tear gas
- Pepper spray
- Thick dust (e.g. post-earthquake or explosion)
- Virus droplets (e.g. COVID-19)
- Wildfire smoke
- Debris smoke (e.g. burning tires or wood)

Full-face or half-face respirators offer the most protection. They are designed to seal tightly to the face so that no air can leak in or out, and a range of air filter canisters are available according to the threat.

- Filters about 95% of airborne particles
- One-time single use

Filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) are designed to reduce exposure to airborne particulates such as dust, pollen and smoke fumes.

*Be sure to check your local and national standards for what is allowable and accessible*