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- Hand & Portable Power Tool Safety
- PPE
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[kysafe.ky.gov](http://kysafe.ky.gov)

**Stay safe!**

**TEAM**  
**KENTUCKY**  
EDUCATION AND  
LABOR CABINET

Using chainsaws, wood chippers and other machinery to clear debris in the wake of Friday's powerful winds? Remember - wear personal protective equipment to protect your eyes and hearing, and always follow safe procedures when operating hand-held tools and industrial machinery!

KYSAFE urges employers and employees to be aware of the dangers associated with equipment used to clean-up damaged building structures, fences, fallen trees and limbs, and other debris that has been thrown out-of-place due to high-powered winds. Many times, the equipment used for this includes chainsaws, wood chippers, dozers, loaders, etc. Each type of power tool or machinery may have its own type of safety hazards. However, some hazards are common among most of them including: high noise levels, moving parts and flying debris. Also be aware of the surrounding area that could be on unstable ground/soil or could be located near live electrical lines.

The first steps in controlling these hazards are choosing the right equipment for the job needed, ensuring the equipment is maintained in proper working order and the operator is knowledgeable in using the equipment safely.

The next steps would include employees wearing personal protective equipment such as:

- Ear plugs and/or ear muffs to protect employees from hearing loss due to loud noise.

- Safety glasses or goggles to protect employees' eyes from damage or eye loss due to flying objects.
- Steel-toe boots to protect employee's toes from injury due to falling objects.
- Hard hats to protect employee's head from injury due to falling objects.
- Leg protection (chaps) must be worn to protect employees using chainsaws.

For more information visit:

[Solutions for Tree Care Hazards \(osha.gov\)](http://www.osha.gov)

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3940.pdf>

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/chainsaws.pdf>

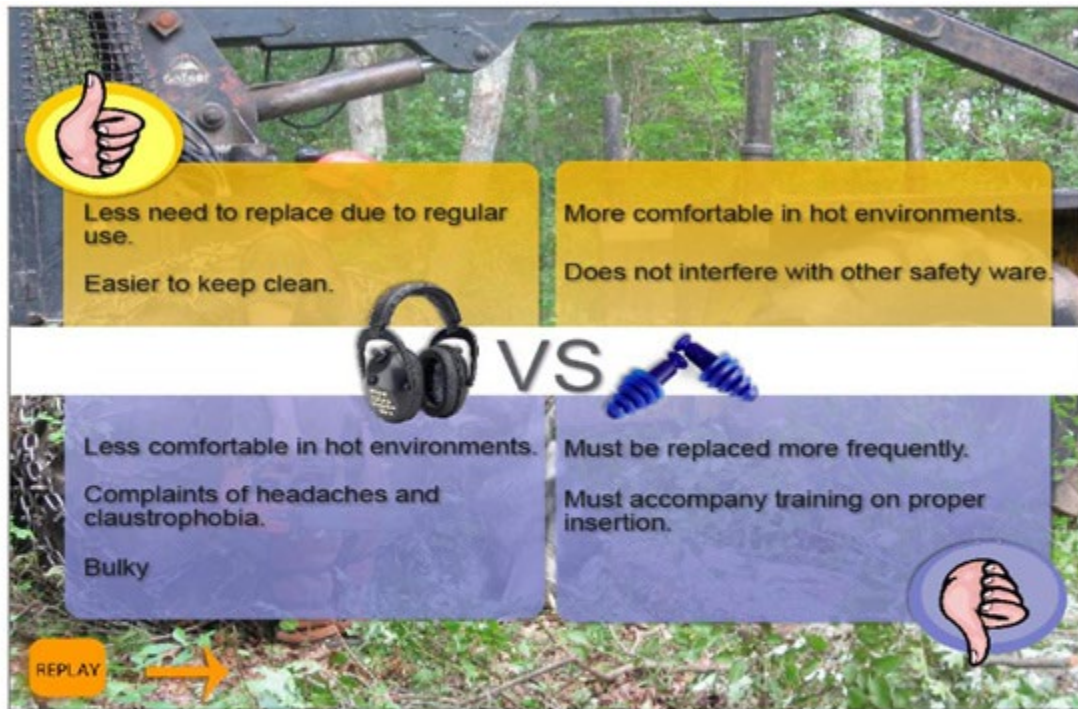
<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/chainsaws-factsheet-sp.pdf>

KYSAFE has several training videos and webinars on personal protective equipment, hearing protection, hand and power tool safety, electrical safety, Fall protection, and many others.

[eTraining - KYSafe Training](#)

<https://kysafe.ky.gov/programs/training/Pages/etrain.aspx>

# Hearing Protection



## Slide notes

Employers must provide a variety of hearing protectors including at least one type of earplug and at least one type of ear muff. Workplace conditions such as dust, temperature, and humidity can cause one type of protector to be more suitable than another; i.e. earplugs may be more comfortable in hot, humid environments, than ear muffs, likewise, complaints such as headaches, claustrophobia, excessive warmth, perspiration, interference with safety glasses and hard hats, and bulk in and around the ear, are commonly associated with the use of ear muffs.

In addition, employers must provide training on the usage and care of all hearing protectors provided in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Also, at the time of initial fitting, train employees on the proper usage of hearing protectors and ensure the employee understands the importance of wearing the protector properly.

- **Ear Muffs**

- Usually offer the highest level of protection.
- Can be used in combination with ear plugs for higher protection.

- **Single Use Foam Ear Plugs**

- Designed for "SINGLE USE" and cannot be adequately cleaned.
- Should be considered "DISPOSABLE" and be discarded when they become contaminated or dirty.
- Expandable – are compressed or rolled-down prior to insertion and then slowly re-expand to fill the ear canal.

- **Pre-Molded Ear Plugs**

- Usually made of plastic or silicone rubber
- Considered "MULTIPLE USE" or "SINGLE USE". If considered "multiple use" they must be cleaned and properly stored to prevent contamination.

- **Custom Molded Ear Plugs**

- Generally made of plastic and designed by a professional that makes a molded wax insert of the wearers ears. These are considered "MULTIPLE USE" and must be cleaned and stored properly.
- These are more expensive, but offer a high level of protection.



# Eye Protection

Safety Glasses/Spectacles



Goggles



Cover Safety Glasses That Do Not Fit Properly



Welding Shields & Laser Safety Glasses



Cover Safety Glasses to Cover Regular Prescription Glasses



Face Shields

