WOMEN'S PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PROTECTIVE OR DANGEROUS?

94% **of tradeswomen**

struggle with ill-fitting PPE according to a recent study

70%

reported a lack of access to female-specific gear

83%

often modified equipment to make it usable

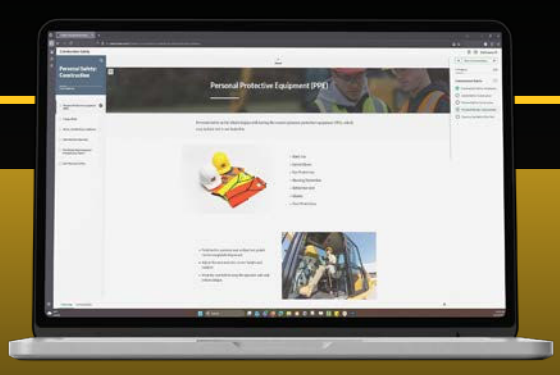
1 in 5 were injured, **2 in 5** reported near misses linked to inadequate PPE and **over 65%** say poor fit affected their performance

POTENTIAL DANGERS

- **Falls** – loose harnesses, oversized boots and ill-fitting clothing can snag on ladders/scaffolding
- **Entanglement** – baggy sleeves or gloves can get caught in drills, saws or rotating equipment
- **Burns** – cuffed pants might collect sparks. Loose fire-resistant clothing can leave skin exposed
- **Reduced Protection** – ill-fitting hard hats, safety glasses and ear protection can slip off, slide down or not seal properly
- **Distraction & Fatigue** – constant adjusting of PPE can lower focus, productivity and safety awareness

TIPS TO ENSURE PROPER FIT FOR WOMEN'S PPE

- **Prioritize fit testing.**
- **Look for real adjustability.**
- **Do not alter gear to make it work.**
- **Reevaluate regularly.**
- **Encourage ill-fitting reporting.**



SimScholars® curriculum, a one-to-one match with Cat® Simulators training, offers essential safety training to help operators understand and properly use personal protective equipment (PPE) for their safety and that of others on the jobsite.

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Source:
- The Biggest DANGERS for Women in Construction (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFNkeYwBR0A&t=562)
- PPE Is for Every Body, Including Women in Construction (https://nawic.org/ppe-is-for-every-body-including-women-in-construction/)
- Women's PPE: Work in progress (https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/26507-womens-ppe-work-in-progress)