



# The Importance of Safety and the Impact of OSHA in the Workplace

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## Introduction

- Safety is very important while welding. When sufficient measures are not taken while welding the welders can encounter such dangers as: electric shock, overexposure to radiation, fumes and gases, fire, or explosion, any of which can result in fatal injuries.
- To avoid injuries welders should always have the correct protective clothing for the welding procedure and protective welding helmet/eyewear to protect them from UV radiation. Proper ventilation while welding and equipment maintenance are also very important to avoid injuries while welding.



Unsafe Welding Practices



Safe Welding Practices

## PPE

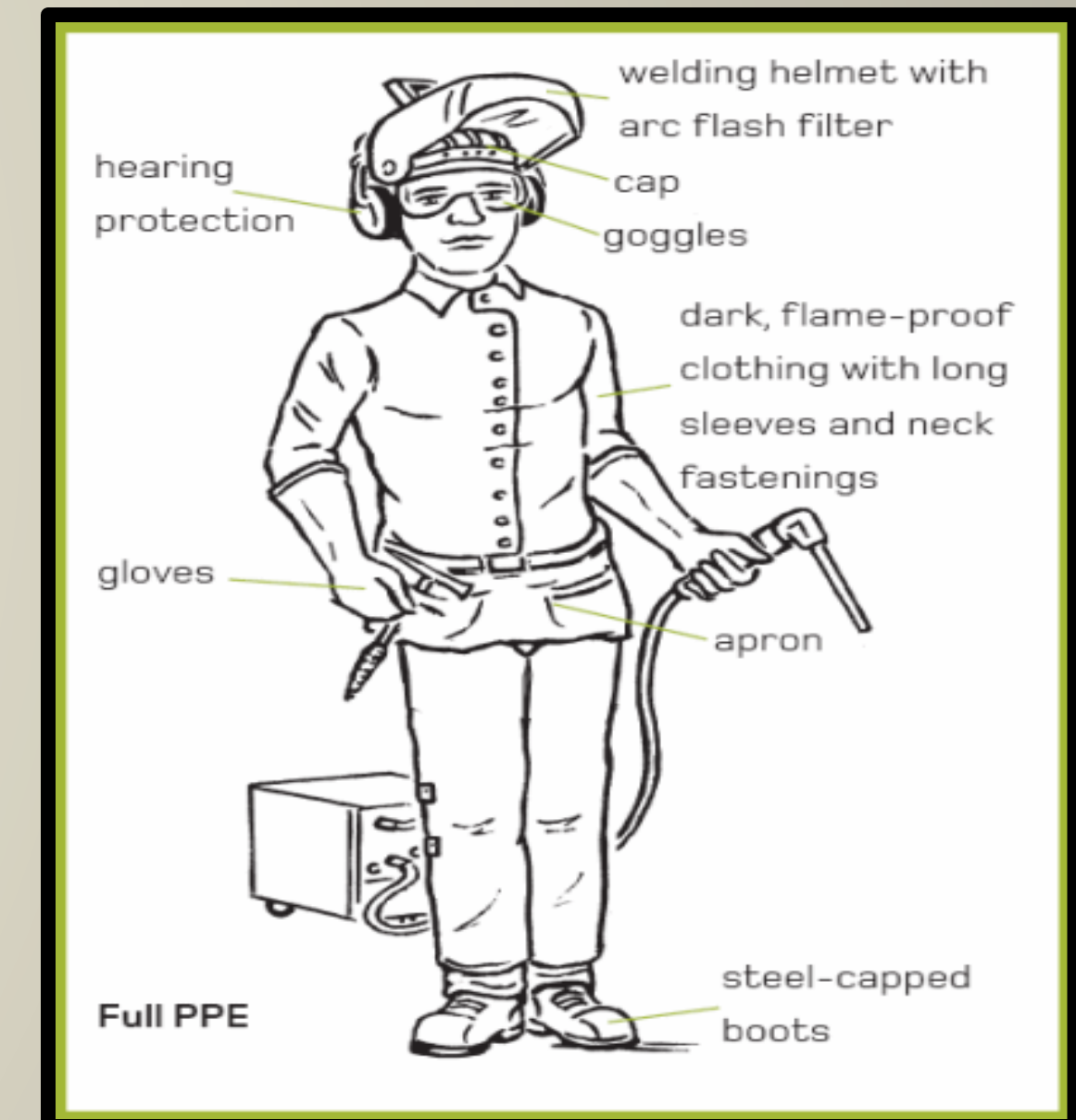
- Most workplace injuries while welding are caused when workers are not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) or they are wearing the incorrect PPE.
- PPE that should be worn in most welding procedures are:
- Welding Helmet to protect from radiation, sparks, and intense light.
- Respirators to protect from fumes and oxides.
- Fire/Flame Resistant Clothing to protect from heat, fires, and burns.
- Ear Muffs/Ear Plugs to protect from noise or splatter entering the ear.
- Insulated Gloves to protect from heat, burns, and fires
- Rubber-Soled Boots to protect from electric shock, heat, burns, and fires

## Impact of OSHA

- “OSHA” stands for Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States of Labor, formed by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.
- OSHA was implemented by the federal government because of the number of injuries, illnesses, accidents, and fatalities that were occurring in the work place and to establish a safety standard for all workplaces to better protect their workers.



Unsafe Welding Practices



Safe Welding Practices

## OSHA Violations and Penalties

- When employers are found to be in violation of OSHA standards, they are issued citations. Many of these violations result in penalties.
- OSHA penalties can reach up to \$70,000, depending on the type of violation and how likely the violation is to result in serious harm to employees.
- The classes of OSHA penalties include, Willful, Repeated, Serious, and Failure to Abate.