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"News and Views That Are Out Of This World"

Fall 2020

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## Chairman's Message

Ron Foltz  
Chairman, Sphere 1



As I sat down to write, this often quoted phrase from Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* popped into my head: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." This opening line seems fitting as we face pandemic, governance, social, and economic issues in grand proportion threatening to overwhelm us. We are definitely in a period of great transition and disruption. It certainly would be difficult to classify this as the best of times, yet I know, it's also not the worst of times.

An article in a local magazine was titled "Every Problem Has A Solution." Solutions may be elusive and may take time to achieve, but we are an industry deemed essential, and therefore tasked to diligently search for them. The Sphere 1 staff works continuously to advance all participants in this organization. The success of the Sphere 1 Virtual Awards Ceremony with over 450 attendees exemplifies the commitment the staff has to furthering and refreshing our goals.

The tenacity and innovation many of our members displayed to remain open while balancing the welfare of their employees and customers is honestly remarkable. Our vendor partners have augmented our collaborations by providing video conferences. The personal meetings facilitated by Go To Meeting, Zoom, and other platforms, allow members, vendors, and staff to align ourselves and reaffirm business basics in our industry. Strengthening our Sphere 1 relationships encourages us to seek and explore creative solutions to the myriad of challenges we are encountering. As long as we look for opportunities and solutions together, S1 will continue to grow and provide a platform for vendor partners and members to thrive.

A little humor injected into every day heartens my spirit, and I feel more resilient when I recognize the power of normalcy in everyday things. Be well and stay safe as we hope for and endeavor to build "Better Times."



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## Manage cold stress with multi-functional gloves, hi-vis apparel, and balaclavas



By Mary Padron

A cold environment forces the body to work harder to maintain its core temperature of 98.6°F. We often associate cold stress with cold temperatures, but other factors frequently contribute to cold stress, including:

1. high or cold wind
2. dampness
3. cold water

Workers exposed to these factors should be aware of the risks and dangers associated with cold stress, including hypothermia and frostbite. These conditions can occur when working outdoors or in artificially cold environments like refrigerated trucks or walk-in coolers and freezers.

It's easy to see how below freezing conditions and inadequate PPE can cause cold stress, but cold stress can also occur at temperatures in the 50s when coupled with other elements such as rain or wind.

According to OSHA, "Protective clothing is recommended for work at or below 4 degrees Celsius or below 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit." A side benefit of providing appropriate winter gear is that it helps improve performance and productivity.

### Hypothermia

Hypothermia, which means "low heat," occurs when body heat is lost faster than it can be replaced, and the body temperature drops below 95°F. Hypothermia is most likely to occur at very cold temperatures, but it can happen even at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water. Symptoms begin with shivering, and if body temperature continues to fall, other symptoms develop including memory loss, slurred speech, and lack of coordination. If body temperature drops to 78°F, the worker could die.

### Frostbite can leave its mark forever

According to the National Safety Council, frostbite is "the most common injury

resulting from exposure to severe cold, and it usually occurs on fingers, toes, nose, ears, cheeks and chin." A cold environment shifts the blood flow from these areas to your chest and abdomen in order to keep your internal temperature warm.

As a cold injury to the skin, frostbite damages fingers and hands like a burn injury. It causes:

- discoloration
- swelling
- numbness and a prickling sensation
- blisters
- tissue death (necrosis) in severe cases, which could lead to amputation

### Manage cold stress with multi-functional PPE

Wearing proper winter gloves and hi-vis winter gear is one preventative measure that can help outdoor workers stay warm and visible in inclement weather.

One of the best types of hand protection to keep hands warm are mittens. Unfortunately, mittens don't allow for dexterous hand movements, so this type of glove is typically not a practical safety solution for outdoor workers, especially construction workers. However, a good winter work glove with multiple features is a powerful tool in your

safety program and cold prevention efforts.

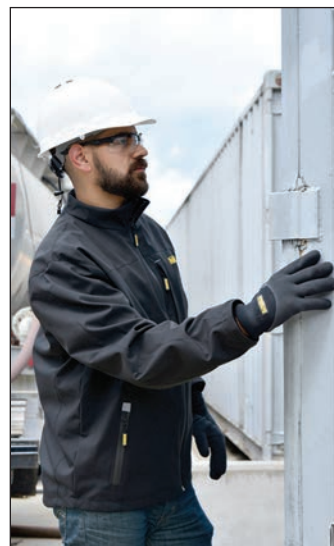
### Three key features of a high performance winter work glove include:

- A water-repellant outer coating or material that provides water resistance and wind repellence
- An insulating liner that traps air for warmth and offers moisture-wicking capabilities
- Comfort and a good fit

### Water-repellant outer coating

It is important to understand the differences among water-resistant gloves, water-repellant gloves, and waterproof gloves. This is especially important in winter months, when exposure to sleet, rain, and snow can make for a miserable workday if not properly protected.

Both "water-resistant" and



Continued on page 3

## RADIANS *continued from page 2*

“waterproof” designate the degree to which rain is blocked from penetrating the glove. Water-resistant gloves resist the penetration of water but not entirely. This is considered the lowest level of water protection. A **waterproof** glove is impervious to water, acting as a waterproof barrier to keep rain, sleet, and snow from penetrating the glove. It offers the highest level of protection from water.

Water-repellant refers to the extra surface coating that improves any glove’s performance, including waterproof gloves.

### Insulation in winter gloves

Many PPE manufacturers offer gloves with 3M™ Thinsulate™ Insulation. The unique microfibers in Thinsulate help trap body heat, while allowing moisture to escape. The material is a matted piece of insulation that allows manufacturers to remove the bulk out of gloves, thus improving dexterity, which is always an important feature of a good work glove.

### Comfort and fit

Poorly fitted gloves reduce dexterity and grip strength. Gloves that are too loose can get caught in machinery and are just as uncomfortable as gloves that are too tight. Make sure the winter glove you choose for your safety program is comfortable and is offered in a variety of sizes to fit workers’ hands.

### Multi-functional winter gloves

The marketplace has a wide selection of winter work gloves to meet a variety of jobsite applications. In addition to helping you combat the cold in mild and extreme conditions, many winter work gloves are multi-functional and offer other protective functions, including:

- High visibility protection
- Cut protection
- Impact protection
- Abrasion protection
- Waterproof insulated protection
- Extreme condition insulated protection
- Gripping capabilities in wet and dry applications

Keep in mind that frostbite can be caused by exposure to severe cold or by contact with extremely cold objects like cold metal



objects, so wearing winter gloves is very important to your personal safety.

### Hi-vis winter apparel with clever designs to meet cross-seasonal needs

Safety pros have lots of options when it comes to choosing winter PPE. Options that shouldn’t be overlooked include reversible, cross-seasonal 3-in-1 or 4-in-1 designs. There are even jackets that can be worn seven different ways thanks to their clever design. This type of winter gear is a good investment because it is thoughtfully designed to transform from a jacket to a vest and from workwear to everyday wear.

Removable fleece inner shells and zip-off sleeves allow the wearer to adapt to changing weather conditions and activity levels and to new seasons and climates. If you get hot while working, it’s easy to remove the fleece or sleeves.

High-visibility fabrics on one side and stylish fabrics on the reversible side provide the wearer with hi-vis protection at work and an after-work jacket too.

### Battery-powered heated jackets deliver unparalleled comfort to users

One way to combat cold stress is with battery-powered heated jackets. Often powered by 20V lithium-ion batteries, heated jackets feature carbon fiber heating elements that distribute heat to core body areas, such as the neck, chest, waist, and middle back. They often feature an LED controller that allows the wearer to adjust the heat output to high, medium, or low. This feature allows workers to adjust the warmth of the jacket based on changing weather conditions or on their level of exertion or activity.

*Continued on page 4*



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In addition to clever designs that offer multi-functional flexibility, look for winter PPE that is also wind and water-resistant, since these factors can contribute to cold stress as previously mentioned.

### Balaclavas protect vulnerable areas prone to frostbite

Balaclavas serve multiple functions, especially those with 3-in-1 designs that provide warmth, protection, and versatility. Those with hinged designs and long length can be worn as a full face mask, neck gaiter, or face shield. Balaclavas help protect vulnerable areas like the nose, ears, cheeks, and chin, which are often at risk of frostbite. Plus, they come in handy as a face covering in pandemic cold weather.

Multi-functional cold weather gear offers workers convenience, comfort, and warmth to manage a variety of cold environments. Make sure your winter PPE goes that extra mile by solving multiple challenges.

### New DEWALT PPE to keep workers safe

Just as construction workers trust DEWALT® tools to get the job done, many safety managers trust DEWALT safety products to help keep workers safe.

### New DEWALT Gloves for protection, comfort, and performance

“The DEWALT DPG72 has the potential to become a bestselling glove across multiple industries,” said Bob Kelsey, hand protection manager for Radians. “It has a double-dipped engineered coating for a flexible durable grip and great abrasion-resistance too. It also features an oil and water resistant palm and will be right at home in the concrete, construction, and automotive industries.”



The DPG35 work glove features a 15 gauge nylon/Spandex shell with a water-resistant and breathable nitrile coating. “It helps fill the void for a full dip water-resistant and breathable glove, so hands don’t sweat as much,” said Kelsey.

### Tackle Cooler Temps, Wind, and Rain with New DEWALT Apparel

In addition to new gloves, Radians has added a DEWALT deluxe hooded sweatshirt and a rain jacket.

The DEWALT DSJ32 deluxe fleece sweatshirt features black color-blocking and black cuffs. “Color-blocking enhances the look of hi-vis apparel and hides dirt to extend useful life,” said Nicole Novick, Radians product manager for hi-vis apparel. This Type R Class 3 sweatshirt features a zipper front closure and a removable/ adjustable hood with draw cord. “It’s soft, warm, and comfortable and can be worn in place of a polyester jacket or as a layering piece in colder climates,” said Novick.



The DEWALT DRW11 is a Type O Class 1 waterproof jacket constructed with durable Ripstop fabric. This three-season lightweight black waterproof jacket has an extended hood for extra protection from wind and rain and features hi-vis green contrast trim and reflective segmented tape to provide Class 1 visibility. “It also has vented underarm zippers when extra breathability is needed, plus it packs and stores easily and has a strap for hooking to your backpack,” said Novick.

### New DEWALT Bifocal Eyewear with Modern Design and Tech

Are you looking for protective eyewear with the focusing power of a reader? The DPG106 Spector® InViz from DEWALT features the magnifying and focusing power of a reader and the protection of an ANSI Z87.1 rated



safety glass.

The magnifier in the DPG106 is molded into the impact-resistant lens, virtually eliminating the hard line commonly visible on most bifocal glasses when transitioning from regular strength to either an available 1.5, 2.0 or 2.5 diopter. Spector In-Viz also features a vented half frame to help reduce fogging, which is important since wearing face masks is a public mandate in most cities and businesses. Mechanical, construction, and electrical industries will appreciate this new lightweight and comfortable DEWALT bifocal option with more modern design and tech.

*Mary Padron is a Sr. MarCom Specialist at Radians. Radians offers an extensive line of safety products for the construction industry, including cold weather gear, hand protection, rainwear, tether vests/retractors, safety glasses, hearing protection, hard hats, high visibility apparel and more. To request a free sample, visit [www.Radians.com](http://www.Radians.com) or consult with an experienced safety specialist toll-free at 1-877-723-4267.*



## President's Message

**Rob Moe**  
President and CEO



Sphere 1 Members and Suppliers,

The times leading up to the fall of 2020 have provided many new views of the industry and how to deal with things as we all move forward. I think we can all say that we're excited to close out 2020 and get rolling into 2021.

In speaking with many of you, I've found that most feel the craziness of 2020 is actually leading to new opportunities for those who are ready to adjust with these unusual times. While this crisis has affected everyone, I am amazed at the high level of positivity amongst our membership (both members and suppliers) – it's truly inspiring to me!

During this crisis, there has been some major consolidation of large industry distributors that has left people wondering, what this will mean for you, your market and if this new "super distributor" will be even more of a disruptor by joining forces. Honestly, you should be concerned... but not by what they will do in your market, but by what you're NOT willing to do to compete with them. WOW – did I just say that?! Ok, hit the pause button. Here's why I feel as I do – after seeing a number of merges in my lifetime, typically, locations will start to close, staff will be consolidated and the whole organization will restructure. Not only is this a great opportunity for Members and Suppliers to capture good people who have been left out in the cold, but this is a great way for Sphere 1 distributors to show why you ARE better.

As members, you have the strength of Sphere 1's community, your collective bandwidth dwarfs these "super distributors." Now, it's understandable that being a distributor in the same market as these larger distributors can be daunting, but being a Sphere 1 member with the exceptional suppliers we have, creates the opportunity to work together

to leverage everything you both have to offer for the end user, ranging from personal service and support, to the product offering you can provide.

If you are a supplier for Sphere 1, you have a membership of people who are loyal, committed, and willing to partner with you in every market in North America. Speaking with many suppliers, this is what you want, why you are a part of Sphere 1, and what you say you DON'T get from others. This is a huge opportunity for you that shouldn't go to waste.

In doing this for many years, I have found that it truly does come down to some very simple concepts. Whether you are competing against a national distributor or Hilti, for instance, end-users ask three very simple questions and, in this order: Do you have it? When can I get it? And how much is it? Knowing this and making sure your team also understands it, will lead to your greatest opportunities – selling yourself, selling your systems (packages) and selling more profitably overall. Too simple? Give me a call whether you are a member or supplier, and I can help!

Members and Suppliers – there are so many opportunities to work together and compete with all those you aspire to win against. Commit to each other and experience the value of what you are part of with Sphere 1. Members, please consider making more Sphere 1 Preferred Suppliers your priority in 2021 – shift business / make conversions. Preferred Suppliers, lean into our members and help them to be more competitive, more effective and more profitable when competing in their markets. Let's get back to business, together!

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, My Friends!

*Rob Moe*



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## DISPOSABLE GLOVES: ARE YOU SURE?

Although disposable gloves have become highly sought after in the past six months, the fact is they do not serve as an optimal hand protection solution in construction. Since disposable gloves are commonly used to combat unavoidable greases, oils, paints or other contaminants, they are often regarded as “germ barriers” which makes them an appealing post-pandemic safety solution. While this is true, it is important to consider the facts of disposable gloves.



### THE REALITY

Disposable gloves appeal to different industries and applications based on a few things; mil thickness, texture, material and AQL. For construction, the reality is disposable gloves DO NOT serve as an appropriate safety solution no matter the circumstance. Hand protection in the construction industry must provide a level of durability, grip, breathability and resistance to abrasion so that it stands up to the variety of rigorous tasks associated with construction – whether it be handling lumber or sharp metal, operating heavy-duty machinery, or one of the many other operational tasks in between. Disposable gloves are not designed for all-day work in a tough and demanding construction environment. While they do serve a purpose when temporarily handling contaminants, paints or greases, they offer no mechanical protection. They also increase the level of heat retention and hand sweat, which can harbor bacteria as well as increase body temperature.



**COST INCREASE OF DISPOSABLE GLOVES**

\*Based on future pricing from Asia with continued increasing demand and possible second wave of pandemic.

These points aside, disposable gloves are also becoming more and more expensive! Medical exam grade disposable gloves are approaching \$12 per box of 100 or 50 pairs. And they are expected to reach \$18 per box by the end of 2020. In a construction setting, that can represent a total average cost of \$4.80 up to \$7.20 per employee per week if we assume just four changeouts per day. Even less expensive, low-grade disposables sold on the internet would translate to higher costs due to the number of changeouts that would be needed due to tearing based on their lower quality.

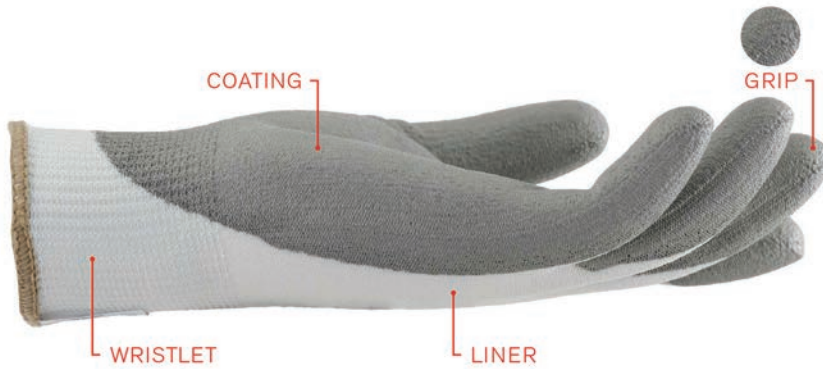


**SO HOW DO WE PROTECT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS?**

Start with the obvious: Workers need gloves that protect them from occupational hazards and that starts with grip. The risk for cuts or abrasions is mitigated when items or tools are held with a secure grip, allowing workers to apply less force when moving or carrying items. Cut resistant gloves help protect the skin from contact with sharp objects while their coating prevents direct contact with shared surfaces and items. When coated work gloves are used with a proper hand hygiene program – as outlined by the CDC– the spread of germs can be mitigated in work environments.

**ARE COATED REUSABLE GLOVES AN ALTERNATIVE?**

Coated seamless knit gloves are effective in protecting against many construction related hazards, plus their coating helps prevent direct contact with shared surfaces. However, again, we stress that proper hand hygiene is the leading recommendation of the CDC in helping mitigate the spread of germs in



the workplace. Besides protecting the hand from shared surface contaminants, selecting the correct coated reusable glove can make all the difference in grip when considering differing applications and environments. PIP’s [Hand Protection Selector Guide](#) provides an easy 3 step tool to find the right-hand protection for any task.

Providing workers with the proper PPE to do their job effectively and securely is the key. In two recent case studies, both companies were able to quickly see the advantages of using reusable coated seamless knit gloves over their initial request for large volumes of disposable gloves. It was quickly proven that switching to reusable coated gloves offered mechanical protection, better comfort and productivity as well as elevated worker confidence when used with a proper hand hygiene program.

View these case studies comparing disposable gloves to the PIP® 33-115 and the MaxiFlex® Ultimate™ 34-874.

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## Source Control ... What is it? Why is it important? Particularly with regard to face protection

The controversy and rhetoric around face masks is ongoing. Often the decision to wear or not wear a mask has come down to your political bias – in some areas the controversy has even escalated to conspiracy theory status. Additional confusion has been introduced by the “experts” like Dr. Fauci, the Surgeon General, and the CDC because they have come down on both sides of this issue at one time or another.

In doing research for this article, I had a bit of an “aaahh haaa” moment. While I may be a bit slow and my moment significantly behind others, I bet there is still a lot of people out there who have not had this moment yet. What I learned that created my moment, is that wearing a face covering or mask is not about me. It is about those around me. It is about protecting others from respiratory droplets traveling into the air and onto other people when I cough, sneeze, talk, or raise my voice. This is called “Source Control.” Until now, I didn’t get it and thought it was about protecting me from others which is why I struggled with the whole mask wearing – there is no way a piece of cloth is going to protect from a virus in the air – only a properly fitted N95 or better would provide effective protection. What it will do is prevent me from inadvertently being the source of the droplets that may contribute to the spread of COVID-19 and get someone around me sick.

So, in light of my “aaahh haaa” moment and the desire to maintain source control, here is a quick overview of the different levels of protection available in the marketplace:

- **Masks** – these are a simple covering that may be made of synthetic materials or cloth that cover the wearer’s nose and mouth.
- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people.
- Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Please note that masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Masks like ERB’s #18735 disposable are perfect for use in general settings where social distancing is not feasible



- **Surgical Masks** – these are the original form of source control used by the medical professions to protect patients. These masks are fluid-resistant, disposable, and loose-fitting devices that create a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and the immediate environment.

They are for use in surgical settings and do not provide full protection from inhalation of airborne pathogens, such as viruses.

- Surgical masks must meet the liquid barrier performance consistent with the ASTM F1862 and the class I or class II flammability requirement per 16 CFR Part 1610
- Surgical masks must have the proper labeling that includes the list of body contacting materials
- These masks should be reserved for use in the medical professions
- **KN95 Masks** – these are masks made to the regulations imposed by the Chinese government (GB 2626-2006, GB262-2019, and GB19083-2020). These masks typically feature an ear loop design and have been made to provide 95% protection against particles greater than 0.3 mm in diameter
- They are currently approved by the WHO as a safety measure from COVID-19 and may be worn by medical professionals
- KN95 masks have been approved by the CDC to be worn in many environments where N95 masks are typically worn
- **ALERT** – There are a lot of counterfeit masks being sold in the marketplace today. If a distributor sells a counterfeit mask for use in a healthcare application or environment requiring a N95, they will not be immune from liability – the HHS has provided liability immunity for the distribution of approved PPE but it does not cover counterfeit product. Here are a couple tips on how to identify a counterfeit mask:
  - FDA logo on their box – the FDA does not allow this
  - FDA registration certificate is NOT the same as FDA Approved or Cleared. Anyone can register a product with the FDA
  - Thin seal material around the mask and loose fitting / non adjustable ear loops
  - If you have a question about a manufacturer, the CDC publishes a list on their website showing those who have been approved. Visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to view the list.



*Continued on page 9*



- **N95 Respirator** – These respirators are the most common of the respirators approved by NIOSH for use to protect the wearer against 95% of airborne particles. The protective device has been designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. Regular wearers of these devices are encouraged to participate in a medical evaluation and fit testing prior to use.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend that the general public wear N95 respirators to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including coronavirus (COVID-19). Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for health care workers, other medical first responders, and trades workers as recommended by current CDC guidance

- **ALERT:** There are also many counterfeit N95 respirators advertising NIOSH approval in the marketplace today. If a distributor sells a counterfeit respirator for use in a healthcare or industrial / commercial application or environment requiring a N95, they will not be immune from liability – the HHS has provided liability immunity for the distribution of approved PPE but it does not cover counterfeit product. From the CDC’s website, here are a couple tips on how to identify a counterfeit respirator:

- NIOSH-approved respirators have an approval label on or within the packaging of the respirator (i.e. on the box itself and/or within the users’ instructions). Additionally, an abbreviated approval is on the FFR itself. You can verify the approval number on the [NIOSH Certified Equipment List \(CEL\)](#) or the [NIOSH Trusted-Source](#) page to determine if the respirator has been approved by NIOSH. NIOSH-approved FFRs will always have one the following designations: N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99, P100

- No markings at all on the filtering facepiece respirator

- No approval (TC) number on filtering facepiece respirator or headband

- No NIOSH markings

- NIOSH spelled incorrectly

- Presence of decorative fabric or other decorative add-ons (e.g., sequins)



- Claims for the of approval for children (NIOSH does not approve any type of respiratory protection for children)

- Filtering facepiece respirator has ear loops instead of headbands – all NIOSH approved respirators have tight-fitting headbands

- **½ Face, Full Face, or Powered Air Purified Respirators (PAPR)** – these feature reusable facepieces and replaceable cartridges or filters. Some cover the nose and mouth and many the entire face. Used to protect the wearer against gasses, vapors, and / or particles when equipped with the proper filter. Most require fit testing and a medical evaluation prior to use. When these are used to reduce inhalation exposures, OSHA requires a written respiratory protection program in compliance with OSHA 29CFR1910.134, and the respirators must be NIOSH-approved.

- These respirators are typically used by trades workers in welding and confined space applications when other means of protecting the worker or engineering out the hazard are not available or feasible

- Health Care Professionals should assess the limitations of these products when considering their use in healthcare settings. According to the CDC, some of these limitations are:

- A PAPR may interfere with the HCP’s visual field because of the limited downward

Continued on page 10



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**ERB** continued from page 9

vertical field of view.

- The HCP's ability to hear may be reduced because of the blower noise, and noise induced by the movement of a loose head covering.
- The HCP's ability to use of a stethoscope may be limited.
- PAPR batteries must be recharged or replaced.
- PAPRs require a significant amount of storage space in between shifts.
- The facility must train HCP's or other staff to maintain and properly disinfect and clean the PAPR.
- Terrific examples of these are the 3M series respirators available through ERB Safety:
  - **Face shields** – these are typically used to protect the eyes and face of the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. However, there are situations in which wearing a mask is not practical and the face shield will provide a barrier for the wearer as well as the public. From the CDC's website, here are some considerations for those who choose to wear a face shield instead of or in conjunction with a mask:
    - Face shields that wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin will provide the optimal source control
    - Face shield wearers should wash their hands before and after removing the face shield and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth when removing it.
    - Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use and disposed of according to manufacturer instructions.
    - Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to manufacturer instructions or by following [CDC face shield cleaning instructions](#)
    - Terrific examples of face shields to use in commercial and industrial settings from ERB Safety are the hard hat mounted shields, E16R ratcheting head gear, and the new 4160 disposable face shield that easily clips on to our IProtect eyewear.



**So, here are some summary items to help with sales:**

- Add-on sales opportunity ... Don't forget the masks or face protection! Like safety glasses and gloves, masks and the ERB 4160 face shield a great add on item that add dollars and margin! Just ask!
- If your Customer is looking for source control in public spaces and there are no hazards that would demand a N95 or jobsite requirement for it, please steer the Customer towards:
  - Masks
  - KN95
- If your Customer is working in an environment that involves hazards that demand a N95 or if a N95 has been required, don't forget that a KN95 has been deemed acceptable while supplies are short and demand is high for the N95
- Just remember, watch out for the counterfeits! They are out there and pose a risk to the wearer.

Wearing some type of face covering is an effective way to maintain source control and reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 or any other flu for that matter. It is all about reducing the spread and protecting those around us when in public and social distancing is not practical.

Thanks for reading ... Be safe.

As temperatures drop and the sky threatens to pounce, it is important to secure the most reliable personal protective equipment available. The first step in choosing the best high visibility jacket or coat is to identify the varied hazards and safety needs of workers. Once identified, selecting the right equipment is straightforward.

With so many options on the market, this guide will help you navigate through the safety features and elements to determine the right jacket for the right job.

## ANSI Safety Standards

Low visibility is a serious hazard for all workers who perform tasks near moving vehicles or equipment. High visibility safety apparel (HVSA) is designed to improve visibility through fluorescent, retroreflective, and reflective material.

Typical workplace HVSA standards require Class 2 or Class 3 protection:

- Class 2 provides moderate or intermediate body coverage and enhanced visibility.
- Class 3 provides the highest level of body coverage and visibility under poor light conditions and at greater distances.

Most high visibility jackets meet ANSI Class 3 standards. DOT striping, contrasting colors, and reflective patterns help enhance visibility, provide a unique look, and hide dirt or wear in common areas. Jackets with unique flare can fall within HSVA standards if they meet specific coverage requirements. If your workplace requires a specific standard, it is important to be certain the product you are considering qualifies.

## Adapting to Changing Weather Conditions

Some high visibility jackets come as systems with layering versatility because changing weather conditions require versatile protec-

tive clothing that is adaptable to the elements and remains comfortable to workers. As conditions can sometimes rapidly shift throughout the day, it is critical to choose the proper safety apparel that can accommodate weather changes while maintaining the safety and comfort workers need. This will support a safe work environment, steady productivity, and company compliance policies.

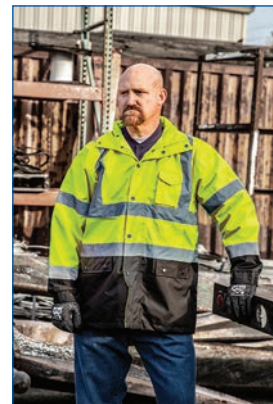
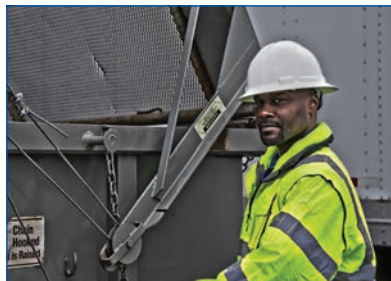
In areas and seasons where temperatures fluctuate, workers may choose a bomber jacket with a zip-out liner. When wind and rain protection is key, but heat is a factor, you can zip out the fleece liner and just wear the shell by itself. When the snow starts to fly, and temperatures drop, you can zip that liner back in and stay warm all winter. This versatility allows your bomber to become a multi season garment.

Transformer bomber jackets traditionally come with some additional options. These layering options can include ANSI or non-ANSI removable liners that can also be worn as separate jackets, concealed or removable hoods, and even removable sleeves.

Some zip-out liners meet ANSI Class 3 standards so you can wear them on a cool fall morning when a vest just isn't going to cut it, but a coat or jacket is too warm. With some transformer bombers, workers can also zip off the sleeves for a little venting. This adaptability provides wearers with multiple options for multiple hazards.

It should be noted that some options may change high visibility standards. For example, removing reflective, high visibility sleeves may change the garment from Class 3 to Class 2. To be certain these options meet your needs and company or organizational standards, check inside labels and packaging for manufacturer information.

In areas where the weather is constant and workers do not require so many accessories,



fixed quilted permanent insulation will continue to keep you warm, dry, and protected in the simple, classical fashion we've all come to enjoy.

## Insulation

Insulation traps air between you and your body, acting as a thermal buffer that minimizes heat loss and keeps warmth inside the garment.

Fabrics like fleece, wool, cotton, and various fiber battings act as great thermal insulators. However, some of these materials are more comfortable and perform better than others. For example, cotton will keep you warm, but once it gets wet, you're miserably cold and most likely will be for a while since it takes time to dry. Wool will keep you warm, but the more the fiber is processed, the scratchier it gets.

Many industrial jackets, coats, parkas, and sweatshirts use fleece as primary insulators because it dries quickly, wicks well, is durable and tough, and feels like a warm hug.

Depending the weather and type of work, lighter insulated soft-shell jackets, or hooded sweatshirts may be adequate. For days when a coat is too much, but a vest or shirt is not enough, soft shell jackets and hoodies will keep you warm without compromising comfort or mobility. Traditional lightweight 8oz fleece material is common and comfortable, but sometimes a 15oz heavyweight fleece may be more appropriate.

Waterproof and water repellent garments offer

*Continued on page 13*



# M

## IMPROVE THE SAFE USE OF TEXTILE GLOVES IN AN INFECTIOUS OUTBREAK

Certain protective gloves by Majestic are treated with sanitizing and antimicrobial biocidal active substances that are highly effective and widely used for disinfection purposes in a multitude of industries and for personal hygiene.

The treatment can contribute significantly to improving the safe use of gloves in an infectious outbreak because it has a permanent effect in maintaining the safety and hygiene of gloves by eliminating or reducing the presence and growth of microbes or other vectors that spread infection by conveying pathogens from one host to another.

Viruses need a living host (like bacteria) to multiply and reproduce. By eliminating or largely reducing the amount of bacteria or other living organisms on the glove surface, the chance of reproduction of viruses on a glove surface is significantly reduced.

Effective management, control and limitation of bacteria on the hands helps the immune system remain strong and more effectively fight off other microorganisms/viruses which the body encounters.

# PROTECT YOUR HANDS FROM THE INSIDE, OUT

Prevent and reduce the colonization and multiplication of bacteria, mold and mildew, algae or dust mites that can spread infection through select antimicrobial treated gloves.



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protection against the elements in varying degrees. Polyurethane and coated polyester jackets with protected seams provide the greatest degree of water protection. Some heavyweight hoodies, sweatshirts, or other jackets are treated with



Teflon® fabric protector to repel water and stains, while the material in most soft-shells jackets provide some light rain and wind protection while staying extremely soft and comfortable.

**Durability**

Protecting America's workers against some of the toughest work condi-



tions requires personal protective equipment intentionally designed to deliver durability, quality, and comfort. Garments that cannot hold up to intense standards of durability leave workers unprotected and unsatisfied. When PPE fails on the jobsite, workers typically shed the nuisance and get back to work. This is especially dangerous because it leaves you vulnerable to additional hazards.

Simple features like heavy duty zippers, straps, buttons, pull strings, seams, and grommets make tremendous differences in durability and dependability.

Polyurethane coated fabrics are dependable, strong, abrasion resistant and less likely to fade, yet light, breathable, soft, and comfortable. This combination provides excellent material for tough high visibility workwear without compromising comfort. It also compliments insulators to prevent heat loss by blocking wind and rain.

Other fabric attributes that contribute to durability and quality can include ripstop, oxford, self-healing, protectant treatments like Teflon®, and other innovations.

**The Right Choice**

Choosing the right equipment is essential to getting the job done right! As you determine the best personal protective equipment available, it is important to consider the quality and durability built into each item, and the companies that manufacture them.

Majestic is committed to your safety. We provide reliable and quality personal protective equipment for the roughest work conditions. By combining the quality of traditional craftsmanship with the latest technological and material advancements, Majestic delivers safety equipment and apparel that exceeds performance expectations so you can get the job done.

**PROTECT YOUR HAND FROM THE INSIDE, OUT**

Prevent and reduce the colonization and multiplication of bacteria, mold and mildew, algae or dust mites on your hands through select antimicrobial treated gloves.

Certain protective gloves by some manufacturers are treated with sanitizing and antimicrobial biocidal active substances that are highly effective and widely used for disinfection purposes in a multitude of industries and for personal hygiene.

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Effective management, control and limitation of bacteria on the hands helps the immune system remain strong and more effectively fight off other microorganisms/viruses which the body encounters.

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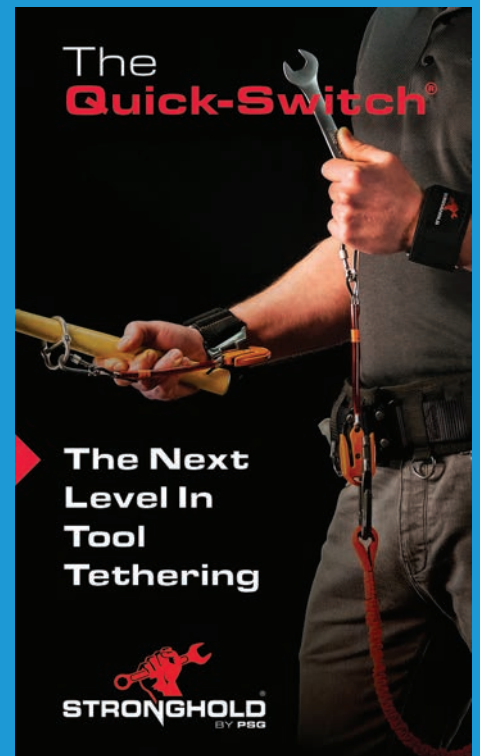
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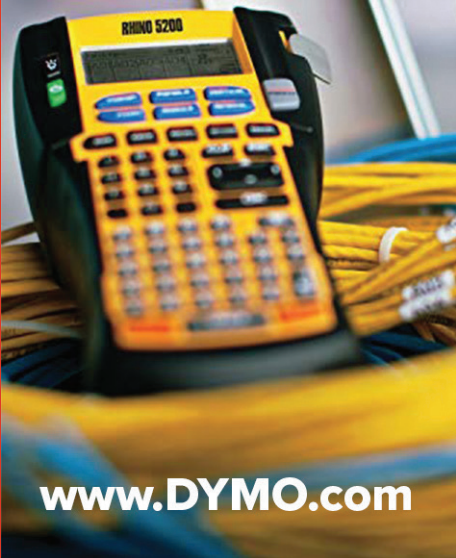
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**Dustin Kruger** is the Primary Contact for Dayton Superior. He may be reached at **937-865-8589** or [dustinkruger@daytonsuperior.com](mailto:dustinkruger@daytonsuperior.com).

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