

# MAKING PROTECTION PERSONAL

A head to toe guide to PPE in mining



Making sure people get home safe every day is the number one priority for an Australian mining organisation. Zero harm should be the standard, not the goal, because every injury is preventable.



## WHY DOES PPE MATTER?

Elimination of risk is not always possible. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the last line of defence in keeping a person safe when all other risks and controls have been applied.

	<b>CRITICAL SAFETY</b>
	<b>IT IS CRITICAL THAT PPE DOES ITS JOB – IT'S THE ONE THING THAT HAS TO GO RIGHT WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE HAS GONE WRONG.</b>

SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA RANKS MINING AS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS INDUSTRIAL SECTORS TO WORK IN, WITH AN AVERAGE OF NINE DEATHS PER YEAR. THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF INJURY IN AUSTRALIAN MINING INCLUDE:

**39%**

**BODY STRESSING, MANUAL HANDLING AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS**  
% of compensation claims

**25%**

**SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS**  
% of compensation claims

**18%**

**BEING HIT BY MOVING OBJECTS OR MACHINERY**  
% of compensation claims

## SELECTING THE RIGHT PPE

The first 'P' in the acronym PPE stands for personal. It's not about compliance, it's about protecting a person's life.



**WHICH IS WHY SELECTING THE RIGHT PPE IS VITAL.**

PPE should be appropriate to the application and hazard, and the people wearing it should have absolute confidence that it will do the job. It should also be comfortable to wear, otherwise it poses another risk – the risk that the person will take it off, which could be fatal even if it's just for a minute.



## PPE SOLUTIONS FOR MINING HAZARDS IN AUSTRALIA



### HAND INJURIES

Hand injuries are the second most reported form of injury and source of lost time injuries on a mining site. Safety gloves help protect hands from sharp objects and other hazards that can lead to lacerations, burns or cuts.



### DUST EXPOSURE

Miners can be exposed to dangerous levels of dust, whether that be coal dust or silica dust. Protective masks must be worn to the appropriate level of risk.



### HAZARDS TO VISION

The risk of eye injury from exposure to dust, rocks, chemical splashes, metal fragments, and sun is high for mining workers. Eye protection is required for a wide range of tasks.



### POOR GROUND CONDITIONS

One quarter of injuries in a mine site come from slips, trips and falls. Protective safety footwear plays a key role in preventing these injuries.



### HAZARDOUS NOISE

Whether it's from loud equipment, blasting, traffic or processing activities, excessive noise can come from various sources on a mine site and most workers are exposed. Hearing protection is necessary.



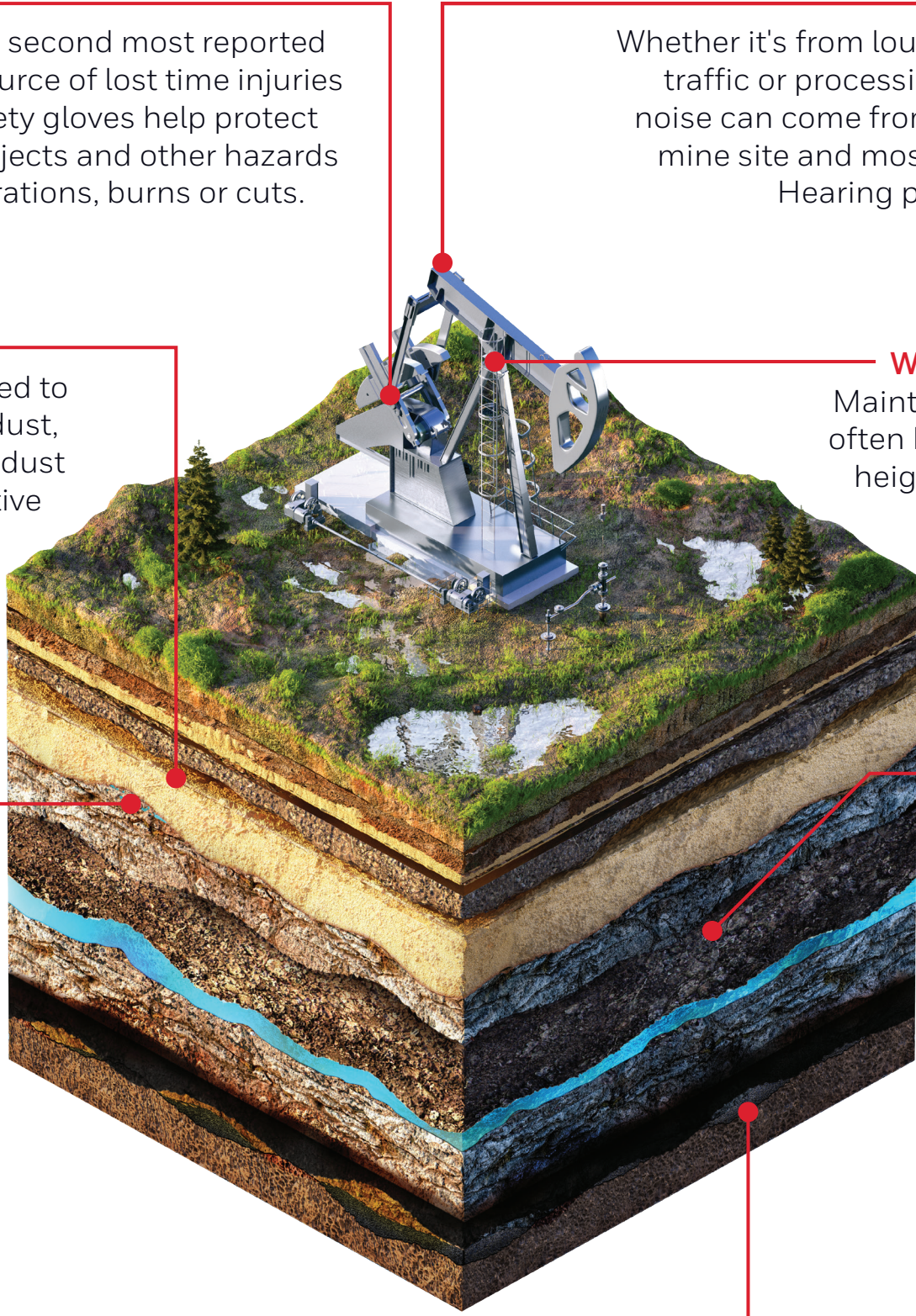
### WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Maintenance work on mines often has to be performed at heights. To prevent serious injury, fall protection is essential.



### DANGEROUS GASES

The presence of toxic gases can be dangerous to mining workers, causing poisoning, contamination or explosions. Not only is respiratory gear recommended for risk areas but gas monitoring devices are critical to worker safety.



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[www.sps.honeywell.com](http://www.sps.honeywell.com)

Honeywell Safety Products Australia Pty Ltd  
45 Grosvenor Street,  
Abbotsford, Victoria 3067  
Australia Tel: 1300 139 166  
New Zealand Tel: 0800 322 200  
Email: [hspacific@honeywell.com](mailto:hspacific@honeywell.com)

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