



# PPE: Footwear

## Footwear Fit

- Proper fit is one of the most important items in shoe selection.
- Select the type of footwear based on the hazards associated with the particular job.
  - Welders require high-top shoes or added spats to prevent welding splatter from entering the shoes.
- Examine the heels and soles to ensure they are in good condition.
  - Thin soles can be easily punctured by sharp objects.
  - Rundown heels may affect the user's balance.

## Footwear Upkeep

- Inspect footwear on a regular basis for embedded metal or foreign objects, cuts, and cracks.
- Keep footwear clean and conditioned.
- Air footwear between wearing.
  - Do not wear footwear that is wet on the inside.
- Replace worn or defective footwear.
  - Cracked footwear cannot be mended with tape.
- Long shoelaces are a tripping hazard. Shoes should be tied.

## Safety Shoes

- Foot protection must be worn in the following areas:
  - Where foot injuries may occur from falling and rolling objects.
  - Where objects may pierce the sole.
  - Where there is exposure to electrical hazards.
  - When ankle protection is needed, boots that cover the ankle should be worn.
- Protective footwear purchased *after* July 5, 1994 must bear a permanent mark of the manufacturer and comply with ANSI Z41-1991.
- Protective footwear purchased *before* July 5, 1994 must bear a permanent mark of the manufacturer and comply with ANSI Z41-1967.