

[ABS05]

## **The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) Contributions to Worker Safety and Health**

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Worker fatalities and injuries can be substantially reduced with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and technologies. It is estimated that 20 million workers in the United States use PPE on a regular basis to protect them from job hazards. PPE protects workers from death and disabling injuries and illnesses as well as protecting from the specific threats of exposures to airborne biological particles, chemical agents, splashes, noise exposures, fall hazards, head hazards, and fires. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) mission is to prevent work-related injury, illness, and death by advancing the state of knowledge and application of personal protective technology (PPT). The NPPTL strives to fulfill its mission by carrying out the following activities: conducting quality research, developing standards, certifying respirators and evaluating PPT, conducting surveillance, conducting outreach, and evaluating and assessing its programs and activities. An independent evaluation of outputs from these activities has determined that since its establishment in 2001, the NPPTL has made contributions to improve worker safety and health. Some of the more significant activities and outputs are presented.