



# LAGNIAPPE

## MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



### Control of Hazards and Personal Protective Equipment

By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services



I would like to take a little time discuss the basic reasoning behind wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the workplace. It is important for everyone to understand why PPE is used and why it is important to use it correctly. This may get a little wordy but stick with me. Things will come together in the end!

When Safety Professionals identify hazards in the workplace, they follow a prescribed course of action to control them. Thus, mitigating the risks they pose to employees.

First, they determine if any identified hazards can be totally removed or eliminated. **Elimination of hazards in the workplace is the most effective way to protect employees from them.** Examples of this may be removing unnecessary chemicals or possibly relocating the work to a safer location.

When elimination of hazards is not an option, **the next best approach is substitution.** A great example of substitution would be using a tool specifically designed for an operation instead of a more generic tool that might be awkward or prone to slip. Using milder chemicals, when possible, reduces employee exposure to more hazardous ones.

Where substitution is not possible, engineering controls come into play. Examples of these might include redesigning the equipment or installing safety features such as guards, auto-shutoff devices, or safety interlocks. **Engineering controls are third in preference for**

protection from hazards.

In cases where Engineering controls still cannot fully remove them, **the next preferable way to control hazards is through administrative controls.** Administrative controls take the form of things such as formal training and standard operating procedures for equipment. There can also be warning signs placed throughout facilities and upon equipment at the location of the hazard.

When all the above have been exhausted, **the last thing that can be done is to issue personal protective equipment** to the employees at risk (See, I told you I'd get around to PPE!). Almost everyone who has worked has utilized some form of PPE. Earplugs in loud environments, gloves for handling materials, or maybe steel-toed safety shoes where foot hazards exist.

So, I went through that lengthy explanation to illustrate the five levels for control of hazards in the workplace. And to also show that in the hierarchy of it all, PPE is on the very bottom. That's right, **PPE is the last line of defense against hazards in the workplace!** If PPE is specified for a particular job or environment, it is because all the preferential methods, or a combination of them, were not effective in fully eliminating the hazard that exists. If you are asked to wear PPE on a job site, you should now understand why it is so important to wear the prescribed PPE, wear it in the manner intended, and ensure that it is in satisfactory condition. All these are necessary for it to function as designed and protect you from possibility of injury.

If you are ever in doubt as to whether PPE is needed, or what PPE is needed, ask someone before continuing with the work. Also, if you are asked to wear PPE and do not understand how to wear it properly, stop and ask someone. Without it, there is no barrier between yourself and the hazard.

### Exciting News!

Open enrollment dates will be announced soon for the American Worker coverages: Mini-Medical, Life, Short-term Disability, Critical Illness, Dental and Vision.

We are pleased to announce that all lines of coverage will be renewed at a **reduced rate!** Yes, you read that right. When these plans are renewed, members currently enrolled will see a rate reduction. Part-time and short-term assignment employees are eligible for this coverage. Be on the lookout for additional information soon.



### May 2026

[May 1](#)

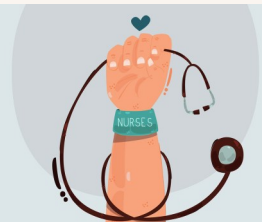
Lofton Founded 1979

[May 5](#)

Cinco de Mayo

[May 6](#)

National Nurses Day



[May 10](#)

Mother's Day



[May 16](#)

Armed Forces Day

[May 25](#)

Memorial Day

**LOFTON OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED**



LEAVE A REVIEW





## For The Ones Left Behind: Carry On

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.



Memorial Day is more than a long weekend — it is a sacred pause in the American calendar, a moment to remember the men and women who gave everything so that we might live freely. Its roots run deep. The first national Decoration Day celebration took place on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than half of the soldiers buried there rested as unknowns.

Today, more than 400,000 service members who died while on active duty, veterans, and their eligible next-of-kin are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. No matter what rank or position in society they held, no matter what war they served in, or what divides the country at any given moment in history, veterans buried there are united by a common bond — the shared experience of serving their country.

In 2008, Tammy Ott, the late daughter of our friends, Randy and Carolyn Rice, penned an inspiring poem titled "A Soldier's Walk," which received first-place recognition from the Pike County Arts Council. It speaks, with remarkable tenderness, to the invisible weight our sol-

diers carry — a weight civilians can honor, but never fully know.

*A soldier's walk is a lonely walk, one no other sees. Fields of battle spread about, Private cries of pain ring out, We imagine horrors we live without. But only the soldier sees.*

*War is a place only some are allowed; all others stay behind. Cameras fight to get a shot, The sun beats down, bitter and hot, Try to interpret, but we cannot, Our stories are born in our minds.*

*The soldier's experience is more than sight; all senses are involved. The smell of the burning, Their stomachs are turning. The hearts are all yearning. The feeling is never resolved.*

*While we, at home, think we know it all, we'll never know the truth. Staring through gun sights, At people they must fight, It just doesn't feel right, Our soldiers lose their youth.*

*As many come home to the country they love, the welcome is not always dear. While some people shout "Hooray," Others are screaming "Go Away," But ask the soldier, he will say, The battle is all they hear.*

*What does a soldier take away, what stays with them for life? The memories of friends, The fight never ends, Who loses, who wins? As the soldier walks silently by.*

*For a soldier's walk is a lonely walk. War is a private game. Gunboats keep floating, And generals keep gloating, Our enemies keep loathing, But the soldiers are never the same.*

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan, spoke at Arlington on Memorial Day which marked the return of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War, who was being buried that day. He captured the spirit of this day with simple, enduring words: "Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others."

It takes immense love to lay down one's life for friends — but it also requires deep love to carry on. We owe a debt to remember our fallen heroes and to honor their legacy through kindness, empathy, and a steadfast defense of the freedoms they died protecting. As Mother Teresa, who embodied that love for 88 years, reminded us: "The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put into our deeds every day." A simple smile, a moment of silence, a hand placed over a heart as the flag passes by — these gestures, small as they seem, speak volumes.

Today, members of the Old Guard place small American flags on the graves at Arlington National Cemetery on the Thursday before Memorial Day — a quiet ritual that carries the weight of a nation's gratitude. These guards — all volunteers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard" — consider it among the highest honors in military service. Each flag placed marks not just a name, but a story, a family, a sacrifice freely given.

As you gather with family and friends this Memorial Day, take a moment to look beyond the cookouts and the parades and remember what this day truly honors. Veterans Day, Memorial Day — it really hits home. It's not for ourselves, but to pay homage to those who came before us. Let their stories inspire us to build a future worthy of their sacrifice — a future marked by lasting peace, unity, and compassion.

For the ones left behind: carry on.

## You've Been Caught!

Lofton Security officers, **Cory Preatto, Leondra Tucker and Kyla Stieb**, faced a surprise inspection from TSA at their location. The agents attempted to gain access without presenting their driver's licenses. Our officers denied them entry and instructed them to retrieve the necessary documents from their vehicle, warning that they would be turned away otherwise. Upon their return, it was discovered that one of the agents' licenses did not match their TWIC card. Our officers identified both discrepancies and successfully passed the inspection.

Their quick decision-making and strict adherence to protocol ensured that security measures were upheld at the highest level. This incident not only highlighted the diligence and training of the Lofton Security team but also emphasized the vital importance of attention to detail in ensuring safety and compliance.

Congratulations to Cory, Leondra, and Kyla for your exceptional professionalism. You are setting a benchmark for other officers on how to handle similar situations with skill and integrity.

How did you find the energy, Mom  
To do all the things you did,  
To be teacher, nurse and counselor  
To me, when I was a kid.  
How did you do it all, Mom  
Be a chauffeur, cook and friend?  
Yet find time to be a playmate,  
I just can't comprehend.  
I see now it was love, Mom  
That made you come whenever I'd call,  
Your inexhaustible love, Mom  
And I thank you for it all.