TOTAL GROUP

SAFETY & EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Canadian Oil and Gas Safety Equipment Selection Guide

Practical equipment guidance for industrial teams.

PUBLISHED

October 29, 2026

ONLINE GUIDE

https://safetywearandrescue.ca/blogs/safety-equipment-guides/oil-gas-safety-equipment-canada

General information only. Confirm site-specific equipment decisions, applicable requirements, and manufacturer instructions before purchase or use.

Canadian oil and gas teams use safety equipment as one part of a hazard-control and emergency-response system. Equipment can help reduce a worker's exposure to an identified hazard, but it does not remove the hazard or guarantee complete protection. A practical selection starts with the work, location, credible hazards, and response plan, then connects the chosen equipment to fit, inspection, maintenance, training, and the work procedure.

1 Key Takeaways

- Start with the task, normal and abnormal conditions, and the site's hazard controls—not a generic oil-and-gas kit list.
- PPE is a residual-exposure control that must fit the worker and be stored, maintained, and used within the work plan.
- Gas detection, fall protection, emergency resources, first aid, and site controls work as connected systems.
- Provincial and federal rules can be scope-specific; do not generalize one jurisdiction's requirements across all Canadian operations.

2 Start with the work and hazard, not a product list

Before selecting equipment, identify the task, work area, people involved, normal and abnormal operating conditions, energy sources, atmospheric risks, fall potential, access, and emergency arrangements. CCOHS explains that PPE is used to minimize exposure to specific hazards, but it does not remove the hazard or provide complete protection. It should be selected, stored, maintained,

and supported with worker education and training. CCOHS: Using Personal Protective Equipment as a Control Measure

The result should be a work-connected decision. One task may need more than one category of equipment, while another may need a change to the work method or a higher-order control rather than more equipment.

3 PPE and workwear: address the identified residual exposure

PPE and workwear selection should be tied to the actual exposure and the way the equipment will be worn with other protection. Fit, compatibility, care, storage, condition, and worker instruction all affect whether a product can be used as intended. Explore PPE and workwear to organize a procurement conversation after the hazard and work requirements have been identified.

Do not represent PPE as a universal or stand-alone solution. Higher-order controls, procedures, equipment condition, and the site's risk process remain central to the decision.

4 Gas detection: use monitoring within the atmospheric-control process

Gas detection should be selected for an assessed atmospheric hazard, not treated as a generic safe-to-work signal. WorkSafeBC's confined-space regulation is a B.C.-specific example: apart from its stated low-hazard exception, it requires atmosphere testing before entry by a qualified person who can calibrate, operate, monitor, and interpret the equipment. It also addresses conditions where continuous monitoring is required. WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation Part 9

Use atmospheric testing and gas-detection equipment within the documented work or entry process. Confirm the target hazards, device configuration, calibration and maintenance requirements, competent operation, alarm response, and recordkeeping for the actual job. Do not infer sensor selection, alarm settings, monitoring intervals, or entry authorization from a product category.

5 Fall protection and rescue: select a compatible system

Where a fall hazard is identified, stronger control measures should be considered before personal fall-arrest equipment. WorkSafeBC's Part 11 provides a B.C.-specific example of an order of control that prioritizes guardrails or restraint where practicable before fall arrest. It also addresses compatible components, inspection, and removal from service after a fall arrest. WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation Part 11

Use fall protection and rescue systems as part of the plan for the particular work. Component compatibility, the work method, inspection, response roles, communications, access, and rescue arrangements all need to be established for the site.

6 Fire, emergency, medical, and site-safety resources

CCOHS recommends a vulnerability assessment to identify likely emergencies, available prevention and response measures, and the resources needed for each situation. Examples of resources to consider can include medical supplies, communications equipment, respirators, detection equipment, emergency protective clothing, fire-fighting equipment, rescue equipment, and trained personnel. CCOHS: Emergency Planning

Explore emergency response resources, medical and first-aid resources, and site-safety tools that support work-area controls where the response plan identifies their role. Equipment alone does not

establish emergency readiness; location, access, communications, training, drills, and plan review matter as well.

7 A practical selection workflow for supervisors and procurement teams

1. **Describe the task and credible scenarios.** Include work location, contractor interfaces, changing conditions, and emergency access.
2. **Decide the controls before the equipment.** Identify what can be eliminated, substituted, engineered, isolated, or controlled administratively.
3. **Select the relevant category or combination.** Define the residual exposure or response need before comparing products.
4. **Confirm the equipment works as a system.** Consider fit, compatibility, manufacturer instructions, inspection, storage, maintenance, and training.
5. **Connect it to the emergency plan.** Identify resources, communications, access, response actions, and review triggers.
6. **Reassess after change.** New work, materials, locations, procedures, equipment, or incident learnings can change the decision.

8 Federal pipeline context

For companies subject to Canada's Onshore Pipeline Regulations, the management system is required to reflect the size, scope, nature, complexity, hazards, and risks of its activities. The regulations also address hazard identification, risk evaluation, controls, communication to exposed people, and an emergency-management program. Justice Laws: Onshore Pipeline Regulations This federal scope does not govern every drilling, production, service, contractor, refinery, or provincially regulated oil-and-gas operation.

9 Limits of this guide

This article is general information, not legal, technical, medical, engineering, electrical, industrial-hygiene, or site-specific safety advice. It does not determine compliance or prescribe detector configurations, respiratory protection, fall systems, first-aid provisions, emergency resources, or product suitability. Verify the applicable federal, provincial, territorial, client, site, manufacturer, and consensus-standard requirements with qualified reviewers for the actual work.

10 Discuss your oil-and-gas equipment requirements with Total Group

Total Group can help organize a hazard-led equipment conversation around your work, crew, work zone, and response needs. Request information to discuss your requirements.

11 References

- CCOHS — Using Personal Protective Equipment as a Control Measure
- CCOHS — Emergency Planning
- WorkSafeBC — OHS Regulation Part 9: Confined Spaces
- WorkSafeBC — OHS Regulation Part 11: Fall Protection
- Justice Laws — Onshore Pipeline Regulations (SOR/99-294)

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