

TOOL BOX TALKS

Hard Hats

Hard hats are a \$25 tool that can save a life. Just think about all of the physical hazards on the jobsite that can impact the skull and severely injure or kill a worker. Tools can fall from tool belts, scaffolds or boom lifts. Hydraulic hoses can burst and fly about. Another worker can drop a tool accidentally. But a wrench falling from 30 feet can kill. Review this Hard Hat Tool Box Talk with workers on the jobsite, and emphasize that hard hats can save a life.

WORKSAFE TIPS

HEAD PROTECTION MUST BE WORN TO PREVENT INJURY TO THE HEAD!

HEAD PROTECTION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

A single head injury can injure a worker for life.

WEAR HARD HATS WHEN EXPOSED TO:

- Falling object hazards;
- Bump hazards like exposed pipes or beams;
- Exposed electrical conductors.

WHAT DOES A HARD HAT PROTECT?

Skull, Scalp, Brain, Ears, Mouth, Eyes, Face

HARD HATS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- Rigid shell that protects the head from downward impacts, blows and impacts from the side.
- The suspension system inside the hard hat acts as a shock absorber from impacts.
- Some hard hats can protect from electrical contact.
- Shields the head from harsh sunlight.
- Shields from splashes, splatters, sparks & slag.
- Some hard hats can be fitted with a face shield, hearing protection and cold weather gear.

CLASSIFICATION OF HARD HATS:

Type 1 - intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow to the top of the head.

Type II - provide protection against both side impact and blows to the top of the head.

G: General use, up to 2,200 volts electrical contact

E: Electrical 20,000 volts accidental electrical contact

C: Conductive, not tested

MAKE SURE THE HARD HAT HAS 1" to 1 ¼ INCHES OF SAFETY ZONE.



IDENTIFYING SIGNS OF WEAR:

- Cracked, torn or frayed suspension system.
- Deformed, cracked or perforated brims or shells.
- Flaking, chalking or loss of surface gloss.

CLEANING HARD HATS

- Soak for one or two minutes in hot water (140 Degrees F) water and mild detergent.
- Scrub with a non-abrasive pad with soap.
- Rinse in clear hot water.
- Wipe and air dry.

HARD HAT INFORMATION

- Protective helmets purchased after July 5, 1994, must comply with ANSI Z89.1-1986.
- Only use hard hats constructed to ANSI specifications.
- To work properly, hard hats should have 1 inch to 1 ¼ inches of space between the head and the shell.
- This space ensures impact forces are absorbed.



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