

Toolbox

Safety Series



HARD HATS

There really isn't any excuse for not wearing a hard hat on jobs that require one. The miracles of chemistry and manufacturing have turned out head protection to fit every need and just about every taste. The colors are attractive and have proved to be positive factors in morale and comfort. In some cases, the type of job a crew performs is identified by the color of its hard hat. The color of a hard hat is also a factor in repelling the heat of the sun.

Hard hats should be worn on all jobs where hazards exist from falling or flying objects, harmful contacts, or exposure to electrical shock. That includes a lot of jobs. There are many ways head injuries can occur – objects such as tools falling on people working below, falling tree limbs, objects hanging or dropping from overhead cranes. You could probably make your own list.

Hard hats should be properly cared for. If they are damaged or the suspension cushion doesn't fit well, they should be replaced. They should be kept clean and sanitized according to the manufacturer's instructions. Never paint over the original color of a hard hat.

Hard hats come in four types or classes – class A, B, C, and D. Each class must meet certain requirements for withstanding voltage and impact. No single hard hat provides protection for all types of jobs. Always follow the safety rules and wear the type of hard hat specified and issued for the job.

Chin straps and winter liners are used with some hard hats. They shouldn't be metallic or conductive if used with hard hats designed to protect from high voltage. Liners should also be made of non-flammable materials if there is a danger of ignition.

Injury reports never make pleasant reading and it's disturbing to find that the injured person was instructed to wear a hard hat and didn't.

A hard hat not only provides protection, but is a symbol too. It indicates that the person wearing it has brains and that they want to keep them intact.

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LEADER NOTES

Objective: To reinforce the importance of head protection and the use of hard hats.

Potential Injuries: Crushing injuries from falling objects, bumps on the head, cuts, etc.

THE TALK – POINTS TO COVER

- There really isn't any excuse for not wearing a hard hat on jobs that require one.
- Hard hats should be worn on all jobs where hazards exist from falling or flying objects, harmful contacts, or exposure to electrical shock.
- There are many ways head injuries can occur (have group give examples).
- Hard hats should be properly cared for:
 - If they are damaged or the suspension cushion doesn't fit well, they should be replaced.
 - They should be kept clean. If issued to another employee they should be sanitized.
 - Never paint a hard hat.
- Hard hats come in four types or classes – class A, B, C, and D. Each class must meet certain requirements for withstanding voltage and impact. (Display the types used in your department.)
- Always follow the safety rules and wear the type of hard hat specified and issued for the job.
- A hard hat not only provides protection, but is a symbol too. It shows that the people wearing them have brains, and that they want to keep them intact.

