

HARD HATS

Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets or hard hats. Helmets or hard hats for the protection of employees against impact and penetration of falling and flying objects shall meet the specifications contained in American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Z89.1 – 2009.

Hard hats will help keep your head cooler in summer, dry in the rain, and will help shield your ears from noise. The main reason to wear a hard hat is that it protects the control center of your body – your head.

What a hard hat can do.

- Protects you from falling objects – it should resist penetration by objects, and absorb the shock of a blow.
- Protects your head from accidental contact with machinery, ladders, scaffolding, beams, etc...
- Protects your head from electrical shocks and burns if it is a non-conductive hat.

Types of Hard Hats

There are many types of hard hats available in the marketplace today. In addition to selecting protective headgear that meets ANSI standard requirements, employers should ensure that employees wear hard hats that provide appropriate protection against potential workplace hazards. This can be done through a comprehensive hazard analysis and an awareness of the different types of protective headgear available.

Hard hats are divided into three industrial classes:

- **Class A hard hats** – provide impact and penetration resistance along with limited voltage protection (up to 2,200 volts).
- **Class B hard hats** – provide the highest level of protection against electrical hazards, with high-voltage shock and burn protection (up to 20,000 volts). They also provide protection from impact and penetration hazards by flying/falling objects.
- **Class C hard hats** – provide lightweight comfort and impact protection but offer no protection from electrical hazards.

Another class of protective headgear on the market is called a “bump cap,” designed for use in areas with low head clearance. They are recommended for areas where protection is needed from head bumps and lacerations. These are not designed to protect against falling or flying objects and are not ANSI approved. It is essential that you check the type of hard hat employees are using to ensure that the equipment provides appropriate protection. Each hat should bear a label inside the shell that lists the manufacturer, the ANSI designation and the class of the hat.

Proper care of your hard hat.

In order for your hard hat to properly protect you, it must be maintained and cared for just like any other tool. Periodic cleaning and inspection will extend the useful life of your hard hat. Do not store protective headgear in direct sunlight, such as on the rear window shelf of a car, since sunlight and extreme heat can damage them.

- Only wear your hard hat when it is properly adjusted.
- Do not cut, bend, or heat your hard hat.
- Do not spray paint your hard hat a different color as this can weaken the shell.
- Only stickers that are acetone free should be affixed to your hard hat. Acetone will weaken the shell and can cause it to fail if struck by a falling object.
- Do not drill holes in it for ventilation in hot weather.
- Replace the hard hat if the color turns dull, or if you see deep gouges or cracks in the shell. Indication of exposure to excess heat, chemicals, ultraviolet light, and other radiation (in addition to a loss of surface gloss, such signs include chalking or flaking), would require the hard hat be removed from service and replaced.

Always replace a hard hat if it sustains an impact, even if damage is not noticeable. Suspension systems are offered as replacement parts and should be replaced when damaged or when excessive wear is noticed. It is not necessary to replace the entire hard hat when deterioration or tears of the suspension systems are noticed.

Wearing your hard hat correctly.

- Do not wear it backwards. The adjuster should always be on the back of your head.
- Do not put anything inside your hard hat other than your head. For cold weather climates you should use a hard hat liner for warmth.
- Bump caps are not to be worn in place of a hard hat. Bump caps are not made to provide adequate protection from falling objects.

Remember, a hard hat is a tool to protect our most vital body part, our head and brain.



Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

WEEKLY SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW AND PRESENTATION

1. Remind all employees that it is their right to a safe work place. Each employee is responsible to report and respond to unsafe work practices and conditions.

2. Review of recent incidents, injuries, and reported near misses.

3. Recent observations, safety violations, and demonstrated lack of knowledge or skills.

4. Employee suggested corrective actions for avoiding future reoccurrences.

5. Existing and upcoming work activities and potential hazards. Include review of supporting materials or documents and demonstrate safe work procedures.

6. Employee workplace safety concerns and recommendations.

7. Safety topic presentation. Include review of company policies, procedures, and location specific expectations. Encourage questions and clarifications.

8. Additional meeting notes.

Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

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Printed Full Legal Name	Signature
Instructor 1:	
Instructor 2:	
Translator:	