



Toolbox Meeting Topics

Head Protection

#102 (2/04)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- Most workers who suffer impact injuries to the head were not wearing head protection.
- In most instances where head injuries occurred, employers did not require their employees to wear head protection.

It is difficult to eliminate or control hazards that cause head injuries. Head protection is required if:

- Objects might fall from above and strike employees on the head.
- Employees might bump their heads against fixed objects.
- Employees work near exposed electrical conductors.

To prevent injuries, head protection must be provided and used whenever and wherever these conditions exist. (OSHA also requires employers to ensure that workers cover and protect long hair- to protect it from getting caught in machine parts such as belts, chains, and rotating devices.)

Hardhats must do two things:

1. Resist penetration by objects.
2. Absorb the shock of a blow.

These are accomplished by a hard outer shell and a shock-absorbing lining.

Hardhats must meet standards established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Hardhats purchased after July 5, 1994 must comply with ANSI Z89.1-1986. (If any hardhats were purchased before this date, they must meet the ANSI Z89.1-1969 standard.)

In addition to issuing appropriate head protection, employers must train employees in the proper use and maintenance of hardhats, including inspecting them daily. Train workers to know:

1. Why head protection is necessary- i.e. the workplace hazards that present a danger to their heads.
2. How head protection will benefit them.
3. The limitations of head protection.
4. When they must wear head protection.
5. How to wear head protection properly.
6. How to adjust the straps and other parts for a comfortable and effective fit.
7. How to identify signs of wear.
8. How to clean and disinfect hardhats.

Attendees: _____

Notes: _____

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