

## Head Protection – Hard Hats

*There are some practical reasons for wearing a hard hat. They help keep your head cooler in summer; dry during rain; and helps shield your ears from noise. But the main reason to wear a hard hat is that it protects the control center part of your body—your head.*

### Guide for Discussion

#### What a Hard Hat Does

- Protects you from falling objects.
- Protects your head in case of a fall or bump's into machinery, ductwork and the like.
- Protects you from electrical shocks and burns if it's a non-conductive hat.
- It is a neat place to put stickers and decals, especially first aid trained or safety committee member.

**Proper Care.** *In order for your hard hat to take care of you, you need to care for your hat.*

- Always keep your hard hat properly adjusted.
- Do not cut, bend or heat the hard hat.
- When you see deep gouges or cracks in the shell, or the hat color turns dull, its time for a new one.

#### Proper Wear.

- Do not wear it backwards.
- Don't put anything inside your hard hat except your head.
- Don't try to substitute it for a "bump cap." The bump cap will not provide adequate protection from falling objects; just isn't strong enough.
- It is not a stool or a step; doing so weakens the shell of the hard hat.

#### Additional Discussion Note:

What is company policy on wearing hard hats?

#### **Head Protection**

- Employees working in the areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, falling or flying objects or from electrical shock and burns shall be protected by protective helmets (OSHA 1926.100). The following are examples of when hard hats must be worn:
  - ✓ Whenever someone is working above you.
  - ✓ Whenever setting trusses.
  - ✓ Whenever a crane is being used.
- If any employee does not follow this head protection policy they will be given a written disciplinary action that may lead to termination. The wearing of approved non-conductive safety hats may be required in some construction areas 100% of the time.

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- **No exceptions!!** Wolf Construction will provide employees with hard hats that meet the ANSI (American National Standards Institute Z89.1-1969) requirements.
- **Helmet Material** – All helmets should be water-resistant and made of slow burning material when exposed to heat. The helmet type should be located inside the shell along with the manufacturer's name, ANSI designation and class.
- **Helmet Fit** - A properly fit helmet should be snug on the head. The helmet's headband should be adjusted accordingly to receive the proper fit. When the headband is adjusted properly, it provides sufficient clearance between the shell and the headband.
- **Helmet Inspection and Maintenance** – Manufacturer's specifications should be followed with regard to the proper cleaning methods. Helmets should be cleaned by dipping them in hot, soapy water. They should then be scrubbed and rinsed in clear, hot water. After rinsing, the shell should be carefully inspected for signs of damage. It is the employee's responsibility to keep their helmet clean. All components, shells, suspensions, headbands, sweatbands and accessories should be inspected daily for dents, cracks, penetration or any other damage that might reduce the original degree of safety. Damaged helmets should be replaced immediately.

**Remember:** *The average hard hat weighs about 14 ounces. The average head weighs about 14 pounds. That's about one ounce of protection for each pound of head. A small price to pay to protect the control center of your body.*

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