

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____ Date _____

HARD HATS

A hard hat is designed to protect you from head injuries caused by falling or flying objects, penetration hazards, electrical shocks, and burns. It also protects you from any bumps you might receive when you hit your head on machinery, equipment, or materials.

Because your brain is the control center of your body, a head injury can impair you for life. Although your skull provides your brain with some protection, it's just not enough for the types of impacts you might suffer around a construction site. Severe head injuries can result in prolonged or irreversible brain damage, speech problems, seizures, paralysis, coma, and death. Wearing a hard hat really can save your life.

According to OSHA, hard hat design must meet the requirements of ANSI Z89.1-1986. However, in 1997, ANSI revised the Z89.1 standard and eliminated the old Type I & II designations (which indicated full brim and short brim). The new Type I indicates a hard hat that provides protection strictly from blows to the top of the head, and Type II designates a hard hat with protection from blows to the top *and* sides of the head. Take a look inside your hard hat and see which ANSI regulations it meets. Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions or concerns.

In the 1986 standard, ANSI also classifies hard hats as Class A, Class B, and Class C.

- Class A Helmets are intended to reduce the force of impact from falling objects and reduce the danger of contact with electrical conductors. These helmets are proof-tested at 2,200 volts.
- Class B Helmets are designed to reduce the force of impact from falling objects and are proof-tested at 20,000 volts. They provide greater protection from electrical hazards.
- Class C Helmets are intended to reduce the force of impact from falling objects *only*; they *do not* offer any electrical protection.

The 1997 ANSI revision also changed these designations:

- Class G General Helmets—*the old Class A.*
- Class E Electrical Helmets—*the old Class B.*
- Class C Conductive Helmets—*the old Class C.* This class provides *no* electrical insulation.

Don't alter your hard hat or the suspension in any way. Check your hard hat regularly for wear. Splits or cracks in the outer shell or tears in the liner are reasons to get the hat replaced. Always replace a hard hat that sustains an impact, even if the damage is unnoticeable.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Bump caps do not comply with ANSI guidelines and
are NOT acceptable in construction.
OSHA requires an ANSI-compliant hard hat.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.