

HEAD PROTECTION AT WORK

Purpose

The purpose of this safety announcement is to inform and protect faculty and staff against injuries from possible hazards in the work/ school environment.

Guideline

The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration regulation 29CFR, standard number 1910.135, is our guiding factor.

What causes injuries?

Not wearing head protection when entering an area that has the potential for head injury from falling objects, head coming in contact with exposed electrical conductors, or striking the head while working in locations with fixed objects (e.g. mechanical room).

Proper Protection

Only a properly fitted hard hat, that is worn correctly, will afford protection.

Safety helmets are divided into three industrial classes:

- Class A, for general service, resists impact and penetration and protects from low-voltage electricity
- Class B, for electrical work, resists impact and penetration and protects from high-voltage electricity
- Class C, is designed for comfort and is lightweight, these offer limited protection, such as bumps, but not from falling objects
- Class D, designed for firefighters, is fire-resistant and won't conduct electricity

Using Safety Helmets

A safety helmet's chief purpose is to protect the head against hazards and mechanical shocks. It may also provide additional protection against thermal and electrical hazards. The safety helmet should fulfill the following requirements:

- Limits the pressure applied to the skull by spreading the load over the largest possible surface
- Hard enough to prevent the head from coming into direct contact with an object
- Helmet must therefore resist deformation and perforation
- Have a smooth and rounded shape to deflect falling objects
- Have a suspension that is securely fixed to the shell, flexible to withstand an impact and adjustable to fit head properly
- Have a chin strap that keeps the hat on if you fall, get hit, or are in a windy situation

The helmet should pass ISO International Standard No. 3873-1977 and ANSI Z89.1986. There might be other special requirements because of the task being performed.

Responsibilities

It is the Supervisors' responsibility to train or schedule training on the aforementioned subject, to note deficiencies and see that they are corrected ASAP.

It is the employees' responsibility to seek training on the aforementioned subject, report deficiencies and see that they are corrected ASAP.

Treatment

Seek medical treatment right away. Follow the University's policy for accidents.

Additional resources; this is only a sampling of additional information

OSHA website or nearest office

Equipment Suppliers

<http://www.labsafety.com>

<http://www.tasco-safety.com> Texas America Safety Co.

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/peoshweb/ppe.pdf>

Take the Safety Quiz on the Next Page

HEAD PROTECTION AT WORK

Quiz

1. What are some of the causes of head injuries?
 - a. Not wearing head protection when entering an area that has potential risk
 - b. Not watching for hidden hazards
 - c. Messy work areas or tools
 - d. All of the above
2. Whose responsibility is it to seek and supply training about head protection?
 - a. only those who might get hurt
 - b. all people doing anything that might cause a head injury
 - c. no one, it is common knowledge
 - d. the employee and their supervisor
3. Who put out the guidelines or regulations for safety training on head protection?
 - a. the worker
 - b. the supervisor
 - c. WPUNJ
 - d. U.S. Dept. of Labor under OSHA
4. Using the proper protective safety helmet for the task at hand?
 - a. insures there are no problems with your head
 - b. guards against serious head injury for the task at hand
 - c. enables you to feel better
 - d. none of the above
5. In seeking treatment for any head-related accident, you must follow the University's policies in order to be covered?
 - a. true
 - b. false
6. Proper protective safety helmets come in only one style?
 - a. true
 - b. false
7. Safety helmets should do all of the following except?
 - a. limits the pressure applied by spreading the load over the whole surface
 - b. be hard enough to prevent the head from coming into direct contact with an object
 - c. be decorative
 - d. have smooth and rounded shape to deflect falling objects
 - e. have a suspension that is securely fixed to the shell
8. When safety helmets or straps become worn, have holes or damaged, you should?
 - a. clean them

- b. give them to someone else
- c. replace them

Answers are below, but do not peek until you complete the quiz.

Self check answer key. How did you do?

- 1. d. All of the above
- 2. d. the employee and their supervisor
- 3. d. U.S. Dept. of Labor under OSHA
- 4. b. guards against serious head injury for the task at hand
- 5 a. true
- 6. b. false
- 7 c. be decorative
- 8. c. replace them