



PPE - Personal Protective Equipment

Hardhats—Using Your Head

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilled execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

Why is PPE important? Workplace safety includes providing training, supervision, and appropriate safety equipment. Engineering controls are the best practice for mitigating hazards that may require PPE, but engineering controls are not always possible. When that is the case, PPE plays an important role in keeping people safe.

Some things to consider when selecting PPE

What is the exposure? For most of our operations hardhats, safety glasses, maybe gloves and safety toed shoes are appropriate. The potential for chemical splashes, dusty environments, possible flying or falling objects dictate the use of eye protection. Falling or flying objects or banging your head dictates the use of hardhats. Handling chemicals requires using appropriate gloves. The potential for falling objects requires safety toed shoes.


**KEEP
SAFE
AND
WEAR
PPE**

Is the PPE providing the appropriate protection? If eye protection is appropriate, does the PPE provide enough protection for the exposure? For example safety glasses are not enough protection for grinding or cutting and welding.

Does the PPE fit properly? If respiratory protection is being used do you realize that facial hair prevents an adequate fit! Or if ear muffs are being worn for hearing protection and safety glasses are being worn as well, do you understand that the ear pieces of the glasses are preventing the appropriate fit of the muffs?

Let's look closer at the hardhat!

The first hard hat was invented by a California manufacturer of safety equipment in 1919. E. D. Bullard Company still makes hard hats today.

Head protection is worn by all types of professionals: NASCAR drivers, National Football League players, National Hockey League players, jockeys, soldiers, and deep sea divers just to name a few. As construction workers and miners we are required to wear head protection too. Ours is called a hard hat.



Why require a hard hat? It protects you from the danger of head injury caused by the impact from falling or flying objects and from electrical shock. All hard hats must meet requirements for impact resistance and/or electrical resistance as set by the American National Standards Institute. Hard hats are tested to withstand the impact of an eight-pound weight dropped five feet. That's about the same as a two-pound wrench or hammer falling twenty feet and landing on your head.

Never drill holes in your hard hat and check your hat daily for cracks, dents or deep scratches. This kind of change or damage could severely reduce its ability to protect you. The suspension system should not be removed except for cleaning. Don't wear your hard hat backwards (except

**MSHA and OSHA Will Be Seen,
So Keep It Clean in 2016**

