

# Environmental, Health and Safety News

April 2012

We're Proud of Our Work



## Something to Think About!!

When the wife says, "I feel horrible; I look fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." Do NOT say, "Your eye sight is perfect."

Welcome to the new year, 2012 . . . . .  
Deeper into SAFETY AWARENESS we should delve.

### THE HARDHAT

I try to make the topics of this newsletter pertinent to what is happening. Here in Indiana we recently had someone get cracked in the head. One person was walking in the truck parking area while another person was cleaning their truck. The person cleaning his truck didn't see the other person and when he flipped the chute down it hit the other guy in the head.

The truck parking area is not normally a hardhat area, but it obviously should be. This incident points to that.

#### Use your head! Get into a habit of wearing that hardhat!

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 while welding). Bump caps are not appropriate for our work environment; they are not built to provide the protection that a hard hat does.

The average hard hat weighs about 14 ounces. That's less than one pound. The average man's head weight is 14 pounds, so there's an ounce of protection for every pound of head -- provided that the head protection is worn. The brain is the control center of the body. The slightest damage to any part of the brain will cause malfunction of some area of the body. The skull, under normal circumstances, protects the brain, but when there is a possibility of injury from falling or flying

objects, additional protection is needed -- that's why you have a hard hat! It provides an additional layer of protection for your brain, which could mean the difference between life and death or serious injury.

OSHA, employers, unions and insurance companies all insist that hard hats be worn to insure workers' safety. Why? Because they work!

As an object falls it picks up speed and force. It may be hard to believe but even an object as small as a washer or bolt can kill you or inflict massive damage to your brain if it strikes your unprotected head. Your hard hat is designed to deflect falling or flying objects and to absorb some of the shock of impact. Additional shock is absorbed by the suspension system, which distributes the force over a larger area of the head and neck. In our line of work falling washers or bolts are not as much of a concern as are falling rocks from conveyors or storage bins.

Some workers complain about the weight of their hard hats and that they are uncomfortable to wear, especially in warm weather. These complaints don't really meet a common sense review of the facts. The average, modern hard hat weighs about 2 pounds less than the helmets worn in World War II, the Korean War & Vietnam. Regarding so-called discomfort from heat -- hard hats provide the head with a cover of shade, and air is able to circulate around the head between the suspension and the outer shell. Hard hats are a very important part of your protective equipment.

STATISTICS OFFER PROOF POSITIVE THAT HARD HATS PREVENT OR LESSEN HEAD INJURIES. BE SMART, don't take chances - wear your hard hat at all times, it protects your head which in turn protects your brain. Keep your hat clean and replace it immediately if it is damaged.

Make sure your hard hat fits properly. 'Wear it proudly!



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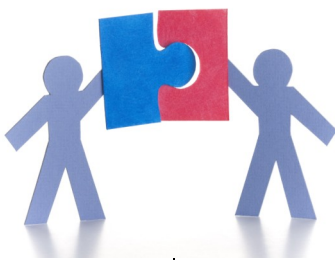
**Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilled execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!**

## Safety Teamwork

Regardless of your position within imi, we all share the responsibility of safety on the job. This requires the cooperation and total safety consciousness of all team members. No one takes pleasure in seeing a coworker suffer an injury. Therefore, it is important for all of us to ensure that recognized safety hazards are dealt with prior to an incident occurring. In the event that an incident does occur, on top of caring for the victim, promptly reporting the incident and participating in implementing corrective action, will go a long way toward preventing additional problems in the future.

There are lots of areas that need attention to maintain a great safety program, but one of the most important may be **housekeeping**. Good housekeeping says a lot about the company itself and the employees. It is certainly the first and best impression established when an outside authority visits. Help ensure that housekeeping is maintained at your location by:

- Returning tools to their proper storage location,
- Hang up hoses when not in use,
- Maintain clear walkways,
- Promptly clean up spilled materials.



Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

please sign below, confirming the material was reviewed:

April 2012

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Other safety teamwork requirements include:

- Being drug and alcohol free on the job. Drugs and alcohol have been proven to impair motor skills and cloud judgment which can lead to undesirable incidents.
- Wear all required personal protective equipment and make sure that coworkers do as well. This includes proper clothing and footwear.
- Follow proper procedures and never take 'short cuts'. Stop, look, analyze and manage every task. Know your limits and ask for help when necessary.
- If you are not sure how something is supposed to be done, ask for assistance. If you are a new employee, don't be bashful about asking a more experienced coworker. If you are an experienced employee, watch over the new guy.
- Always keep an eye out for areas where improvements in safety can be implemented. Heed those near-miss incidents, they can be used to the Company's advantage, if they are reported. Finding the root cause of a near miss incident can prevent someone else being injured in the future.

We are on a Journey, a **safety journey**. Let's arrive by working together to keep everyone safe and healthy.

A portion of this topic, and the idea, was taken from a Toolbox Talk by the Indiana Construction Association.