Minnesota Electrical Association

Electrical Toolbox Talks

Head Protection

- Employees working in areas where there is a danger of injury from impact, falling objects, flying objects or electrical shock and burns shall be protected by using a protective helmet.
- Helmets used for protection against impact and penetration of falling objects shall meet the specifications contained in American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Z89.1-1969, Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection.
- Helmets used for protection against high voltage electrical shock and burns shall meet the specifications contained in American National Standards Institute, Z89.2-1971.

Figure 1. Class A Hard Hat

The proper class of hard hat should be selected and worn for each type of hazard.

- Class A hard hats are used for general service such as construction. They offer good impact protection but limited voltage protection.
- Class B hard hats are designed for electrical and utility work. They offer protection from falling objects as well as high voltage shocks and burns.
- Class C hard hats are designed for comfort and offer limited protection. They protect from bumping against fixed objects, but do not protect against falling objects or electric shock.

Hard hats protect you by providing the following features:

- A rigid shell that resists and deflects blows to the head.
- A suspension system inside the hat that acts as a shock absorber.
- Some hats serve as an insulator against electrical shocks.
- Shields your scalp, face, neck, and shoulders against splashes, spills, and drips.
- Some hard hats can be modified so you can add face shields, goggles, hoods, or hearing protection to them.

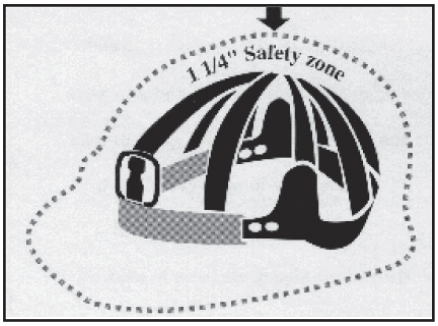

Figure 2. Hard Hat

More information on Head Protection can be found in the OSHA Regulations 1910.132, General Requirements Section.

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