TOOLBOX TALKS

HEAD PROTECTION—HARD HATS

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

WHEN HEAD PROTECTION IS NECESSARY

- Head protection must be worn if any of the following apply:
  - Danger of objects falling from above
  - Possibility of accidental head contact with electrical hazards
  - Chance of heads bumping against fixed objects (beams, etc.)

HARD HATS

- Hard hats are the most common form of head protection. They are designed to resist penetration by objects, absorb shock of a blow and be water resistant and slow burning
  - **Class A** - Provide impact, penetration resistance and limited voltage protection up to 2,200 volts (2.2 kilovolts)
  - **Class B** - Provide the highest level of protection against electrical hazards, with high-voltage shock and burn protection up to 20,000 volts (20 kilovolts). Also provide protection from impact and penetration hazards by flying or falling objects
  - **Class C** - Provide lightweight comfort and impact protection but offer no protection from electrical hazards
  - **Bump Hats** - Designed for use in areas with low head clearance and are recommended for areas where protection is needed from head bumps and lacerations

HARD HAT REQUIREMENTS

- Hard hats must have a hard outer shell and a shock-absorbing lining, incorporating a headband and straps that suspend the shell from 1 to 1¼ inches (2½ to 3¼ centimeters) away from the head
- Each hat should have a label inside the shell that lists the manufacturer, the ANSI designation and the class of the hat
- A proper fit allows sufficient clearance between the shell and the suspension system for ventilation and distribution of an impact
- Accessories must not compromise the hat's safety elements
- Every day, inspect for holes, cracks, tears or other damage
- Never drill holes or paint a hard hat
- Always wear a hard hat with the bill worn forward

STICKERS ON HARD HATS

- Stickers on hard hats have become a common way to "personalize" your hard hat. Considering the type of adhesive used in typical stickers, there is very little potential for chemical interaction between the adhesive and the helmet shell. Here are a couple rules for applying stickers on hard hats:
  - Stickers should be placed at least 3/4 inch (2 cm) away from the edge of the helmet. This prevents the sticker from acting like a conductor between the outside and inside of the shell
  - The area of the helmet covered by stickers should be kept to a minimum to permit regular inspection of the helmet shell for signs of damage

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

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