

Bi-Weekly Safety Tool Box Talks
James Peterson Sons, Inc.
JPS, Inc. Utility Division
Buteyn-Peterson Construction Co., Inc.
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Hard Hats—Again

A hard hat is perhaps the most familiar and recognizable piece of personal protective equipment in construction. The image of the hard hat is so closely tied to construction work, that construction workers are sometimes referred to as “hard hats” themselves. Maybe the hard hat has become a steadfast symbol of construction because the hats are bright and colorful. Maybe it’s because they’ve been saving lives for over 90 years.

Hard hats come in many different styles and colors, but in order to be OSHA approved, they must meet certain requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z89.1). The ANSI requirements grade hard hats by type and class in order to help workers find the hard hat that will protect them from the hazards they encounter in their workplaces.

No matter how familiar hard hats are, and how easy they are to put on, many of you are still forgetting (or refusing) to wear them. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), between October 2007 and September 2008, the head protection standard was cited 1,725 times for violations. Proposed fines totaled almost one million dollars.

A hard hat is one of the most important safety devices you wear. These plastic devices are generally your only defense in case an object falls from above and strikes your head. They are designed to reduce the impact to your head and

your brain. A single head injury can be fatal or can cause severe and permanent brain damage.

It’s really troubling that in spite of all the information available on how hard hats save lives, there are still many construction workers who violate OSHA standards, and defy common sense, by refusing to wear them. This is not a smart or safe decision. The simple act of putting on your hard hat can be a lifesaving move on your part.

OSHA requires—that’s a requirement, not a recommendation—that you wear a hard hat where there is a potential for objects falling from above, a possibility that you may strike your head against a fixed or protruding object, or where accidental head contact may be made with electrical hazards. You should inspect your hard hat routinely for dents, cracks, or deterioration. Hard hats must be replaced after a heavy blow or electrical contact.

Every day that you’re on the job, you should wear a hard hat. If you choose not to wear one, the only people you’re putting at risk are yourself and your wife and kids. Don’t be hardheaded. Wear your hard hat.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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According to OSHA, hard hats must meet ANSI Z89.1-1969 requirements. If you’re unsure whether your hard hat meets these requirements, check the certification label or talk to your supervisor.

Safety Manual Reference: *Page 9 Para.6.1 Site Safety Rules*

I have read the above safety topic.

Employee Name: _____ Date: _____

Employee Signature: _____

“Return after reading and signing to the office with your time card”