



TOOLBOX

SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 31 - No 31 HARD HAT AREAS

When do I need to start wearing a hard hat? When can I stop wearing one? These are questions that are frequently asked on construction sites. OSHA standard 1926.100(a) states that “Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets”.

Impact could be caused by an employee falling or tripping into a trench or excavation that could result in the employee striking his head on a rock or another hard object. Another possible way that an employee could be exposed to an impact hazard is being struck with a swinging load or other material being moved. Falling objects could come from overhead work being conducted such as roof work, brick masons working on a scaffold, or an employee working on a ladder and accidentally dropping a tool. Flying objects could be a result of a wooden stake breaking off and pieces sent flying after being struck by a sledge hammer. Another possible way that a flying hazard could be created is by rocks sent zooming through the air like miniature missiles after being stepped on by heavy equipment such as a front end loader.



Employee exposure to electrical hazards is almost always present on every construction job site. The overhead power lines pose a great danger when working with equipment such as cranes or excavators in close proximity with those lines. Employees working inside a building under construction may come in contact with exposed wiring that is frequently used to supply power to temporary lighting.

Regardless of what phase of construction your project is at, hard hats should be worn from day 1 to the completion of the project. And by all means, if the sign says “Hard Hats Required”, wear your hard hat. You never know when or where the next flying object may come from.



TOOLBOX

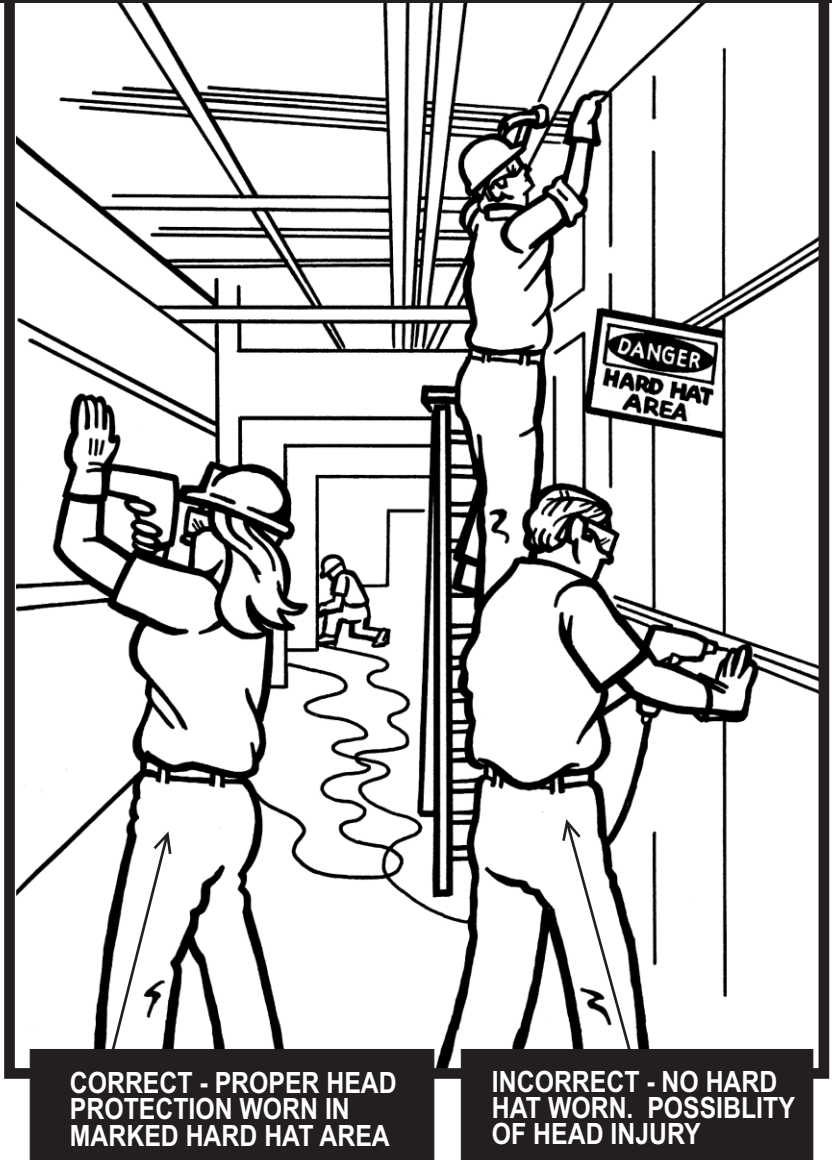
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