URBAN AG COUNCIL
GEORGIA

SAFETY SCHOOL

Provided for UAC members by the Georgia Urban Ag Council & Snellings Walters Insurance Agency

Employee Personal Protective Equipment

Objective

To know when and what type of head, eye, and hand protection to wear.

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Protecting the head

Trainer's note: Explain when and where to wear a hard hat. Discuss how to prevent accidents by wearing a hard hat. Have each employee try on and adjust a hard hat to proper fit.

Background

Wear a hard hat if there is danger of striking the head on overhead objects or of being hit by a falling, overhead object. Potentially dangerous situations include:

- Working below other workers or machinery.
- Working around or under conveyor belts.
- Working around exposed energized conductors.

Wear hard hats made of slow-burning, water-resistant molded plastic. They protect the head in various ways.

- The hard outer shells resist blows and penetration from above.
- Shock-absorbing suspensions (headband and straps) act as an impact barrier between the hat and the head.

Because the suspension gives a helmet its impact distributing qualities, helmets worn over a cap or parka hood do not protect the head. Liners are available to keep the head warm and chin straps are also available to keep the hat in place. Hard hats come in different classes or levels of protection.

CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
Type I	Designed for top of head protection
Type II	Designed for top, front, rear and side protection
Class G	Resists impact and penetration and provides limited resistance to electricity.
Class E	Resists impact and penetration and provides high resistance to electricity.
Class C	Provides impact and penetration resistance only. They are usually made of aluminum and should never be worn around electricity

Inspect the hard hat before using.

Wear the hat if:

- The headband is not stretched or worn and fits comfortably.
- The shell is not dented, cracked, or visibly damaged.

After using the hard hat:

- Check the hat for damage. If damaged, destroy the hat.
- Wash the shell frequently using hot soapy water only; rinse thoroughly.
- Store the hat carefully in a cool, dark, dry place.

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Personal eye protection

Trainer's note: Most eye damage is permanent therefore, eye protection is vital in hazardous situations. There are a variety of protective devices available for the eyes. Show workers examples of eye protective wear and discuss how and when to use each piece. Let workers examine and try on the eye gear.

Background

Shatterproof safety glasses, safety goggles, and face shields offer eye and face protection and yet provide for clear vision. Many eye protectors also have side shields and/or filter lenses. Side shields offer protection from flying objects. Filter lenses provide protection from radiation such as is encountered in welding. Not all flying objects (i.e. high velocity items) will be stopped by wearing eye protection.

As of July 5, 1994, all glasses must meet the minimum standards set forth by the American National Standards Institute. Approved lenses are marked by the manufacturer. "Z87" will be on all other major components.

Prescription glasses wearers should wear protective eye wear that either incorporates the prescription lenses or fits comfortably over prescription glasses without disturbing the fit.

Inspect protective eye wear

- The arm pieces on safety glasses should touch the side of the head and curl behind the ears.
- Goggle lenses should be centered and the strap should rest low on the back of the head.
- Flexible elastic headbands must be in good shape.
- Discard pitted or scratched eye wear. Eye wear should be clean and defogged.
- Protective eye wear should fit snugly and be reasonably comfortable under conditions of use.

Keep protective eye wear clean

- Clean the lenses thoroughly with soap and water.
- Disinfect eye wear that has been exposed to a hazardous substance or worn by someone else.
- Store clean eye wear in a closed, dustproof case.

To protect the eyes, follow these safety tips:

- Wear goggles or a face shield around flying chips or particles, electrical arcing or sparks, chemical gases or vapors, harmful light, liquid chemicals, acids, or caustics, molten metal, dusts, or swinging objects like ropes or chains.
- Turn containers away from the face when opening.
- Remove protective eye wear only after turning off the tool.
- Outdated or scratched prescription lenses can distort vision.
- Replace cracked, pitted or damaged goggles or spectacles.
- Concentrate on task at hand when using power tools.
- Stop and relax the eyes if they are becoming strained.
- Keep sharp or pointed objects away from the face and eyes.
- Be certain that protective eye wear is approved protection against the hazard for which it is being used.
- If filter lenses are used be certain that the filter lens is of a shade number appropriate for the type of work.
- Check with suppliers for most appropriate types of eye protection for the hazard.

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Protecting the hands

Trainer's note: Display various type of gloves during the session and discuss their proper use. It is as important to discuss when NOT to use gloves as it is to discuss the use of gloves.

Background

Gloves can protect hands and forearms from cuts, abrasions, burns, puncture wounds, skin contact with hazardous chemicals and some electrical shocks. Not every job requires gloves. In some cases it may be dangerous to wear gloves. Never wear gloves while working with or around moving machinery, such as mills or lathes. If the glove got caught in the machinery it could pull the hand and arm in, causing amputation.

Choosing protective gloves:

Gloves are made of a variety of materials. It is important to know what kind of protection each glove type can offer. Using the wrong glove can cause injury. Cotton gloves could absorb dangerous chemical causing the skin to burn. Using the correct glove reduces hazards in the work place. It is the employer's responsibility to determine how long gloves can be worn and if they are reusable. However, the employee should inform the employer if they that feel their gloves should be replaced.

TYPE OF GLOVE	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
Metal Mesh & Kevlar Knit	Prevents cuts from sharp objects.
Leather	Protects against rough objects, chips, sparks, and moderate heat.
Cotton Fabric	Protects against dirt, splinters, and abrasions. Helps grip slippery objects. Do not use when working with rough, sharp, or heavy materials.
Rubber, Neoprene, & Vinyl	Protects from chemicals. Check chemical package for specific instructions.

Review for head protection

- Know when to wear a hard hat.
- Choose the best hard hat for the job.
- Wear hard hats that are in good repair.
- Discard damaged hats.

Review for eye protection

- Tools should be turned off before removing goggles.
- Inspect eye wear before wearing.
- Spectacles must comply with the minimum requirements of the American National Standards Institute.
- Store eye wear in a clean-dustproof case.

Review for hand protection

- Choose the right glove for the job.
- In some situations using gloves can be dangerous.
- Check with specific recommendations for the type of glove to use when working with chemicals.

Quiz

1. Safety goggles or face shield (worn with safety glasses) are preferred while performing tasks that generate flying particles. T or F.
2. Wear a hard hat if there is danger of striking the head on overhead objects or of being hit by a falling, overhead object. T or F.
3. Using the wrong glove can cause injury. T or F.

Answer key

1. True
2. True
3. True