

USE YOUR HEAD PROTECTION

A protective helmet or hard hat should be worn to protect against head injuries whenever you are in a work environment where these serious injuries might occur. The hard outer shell protects against blows and penetration, and the shock-absorbing suspensions act as a barrier between the outer shell and your head to absorb impact. As with all personal protective equipment (PPE), make sure your helmet fits properly, and remember to inspect it for damage before each use.

Hard hats are grouped by type and by class. Wear the right hard hat for the hazards you face.

Types of hard hats:

→ **Type 1 hard hats** provide top impact protection. They have a full brim around the entire hat. These hard hats diminish the collision impact of falling objects.

→ **Type 2 hard hats** are designed to decrease the force of impact resulting from a force that is received off center or on the top of the head. This type of hard hat is typically lined on the inside with thick high density foam or shock absorbing material.

Classes of hard hats:

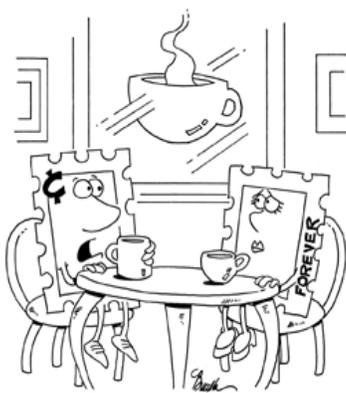
→ **Class G hard hats** provide low-voltage (up to 2200 volts) protection.

→ **Class E hard hats** provide high-voltage (up to 20,000 volts) protection.

→ **Class C hard hats** protect the wearer from falling objects but do not provide protection against contact with electrical conductors and are not electrically insulated.

→ **Class D hard hats** are fire resistant and don't conduct electricity. Firefighters wear Class D hard hats.

→ **Bump hats** are designed for employees working in low clearance areas and this classification of hard hat protects them from lacerations caused by beams, pipes or other potentially low hanging objects.



"I'm not afraid of commitment, but forever is a really long time."

Safety Matters

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REPORT ALL NEAR MISSES OR CLOSE CALLS

A near miss or close call is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage – but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near. Although the label of 'human error' is commonly applied to an initiating event, a faulty process or system invariably permits or compounds the harm, and should be the focus of improvement.

Optimism has its place in the work environment, but when you've had a near miss experience, being optimistic that it could never happen again -- to you or someone else -- should not be a factor.

Emerging problems may be invisible to others because there's no information on them or because data on the issue isn't available. The world of close calls is often very local with information on near misses remaining with only those involved in the event.

If you're the one who had the close call, giving specific information to your supervisor on the event could provide an important warning. Often organizations that are committed to high safety standards are surprised when such an event takes place. They want to take steps to avoid it happening to someone else.

Sometimes a person who has had a near miss may resist reporting it because they are afraid that the event will be blamed on them. Safety conscious organizations will not do this because, the fact is, if it could happen to you, it could happen to someone else. It is up to you to provide the warning sign to help your organization prevent a future occurrence that could result in injuries to other employees.

Recent studies of close calls have shown that warning signs that might have prevented a disaster in many fields were not given by those who had the near miss. Without the information being given to an organization's management, no preventive measures can be implemented and the next time the close call event takes place it may become an accident with injuries.

Don't be the one who stays silent, regardless of whether you fear that it might be considered your fault. Your report might prevent a future disaster.

RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

A man leaves home, takes three left turns and arrives back home only to find me awaiting him with mask on.
What happened?

Answer on page 2 Safety Bits & Pieces

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

One way to avoid screwdriver injuries is to not hold the item you're working on in your hand. Instead, place it on a work surface and use a vise or a clamp to hold the material. Wear eye protection while using any tool.

Safety Bits & Pieces

SOLVENT SAFETY

Solvents are liquids or gases that dissolve other substances, which makes them very useful in the workplace where they serve a variety of purposes. But although they're widely used, they can also be hazardous. Breathing fumes or getting certain solvents on your skin can lead to serious health problems. In addition, many solvents are flammable.

When using solvents:

- ⇒ **Read the label and material safety data sheet (MSDS)** whenever you work with a new solvent, and follow all safety and health directions.
- ⇒ **Make sure there is adequate ventilation** to remove hazardous vapors.
- ⇒ **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**, which may include chemical-resistant gloves (which should be changed frequently), eye protection, face shield, protective clothing, and in some cases, respirators.
- ⇒ **Use fluids sparingly** and keep containers sealed when not in use.
- ⇒ **Dispose of used solvent properly**—it's a hazardous waste and must be recycled or disposed of according to government regulations and company rules.
- ⇒ **Remove PPE and protective clothing carefully** to avoid getting solvents on your skin.
- ⇒ **Wash hands and face** with soap and water after removing PPE and work clothes.
- ⇒ **Wash immediately** if you get solvent on your skin.
- ⇒ **Flush with water** for at least 15 minutes, and see the doctor if you get solvent in your eyes.

Home Safety Tips for Singles

Though applicable for all persons, these home safety tips are crucial for those who live alone:

- ⇒ Be sure doors have deadbolt locks.
- ⇒ When visitors knock, have them identify themselves. Use a door chain. Never open the door for an unidentified stranger.
- ⇒ Have daily communications with family or friends. Remain socially engaged.
- ⇒ Keep track of doctor's appointments and times to take any medications.
- ⇒ Have adequate lighting at the front door or hallway and on steps. If you live in an apartment building, report any lights that are burned out.
- ⇒ With Internet dating, never give your full name, address or phone number at the first meeting. Meet in a public place such as a coffee shop.

RIDDLE OF THE MONTH ANSWER:

Batter up scored a home run and ran all the bases.

Hand Tool Safety

Use common sense for common tools

First, follow these general safety rules for all hand tools:

- ☞ Carry tools in a tool belt.
- ☞ Hand tools to others, never toss them.
- ☞ Store tools properly in a safe place.
- ☞ Wear appropriate PPE such as eye protection, as necessary.

In addition, follow these specific precautions for these common tools:

Screwdrivers:

- ☞ Make starting holes with a drill or nail.
- ☞ Grind or file the tip periodically.
- ☞ Repair worn, bent, or broken tips or throw the tool away.

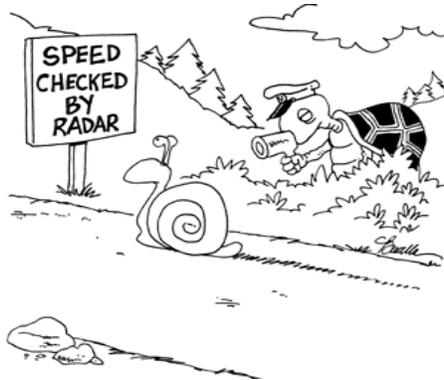
Wrenches:

- ☞ Pull the wrench, don't push, and make sure your footing is secure.
- ☞ Keep jaws sharp.
- ☞ Don't try to straighten a bent wrench. Throw it away.
- ☞ Never add an extension handle for more leverage. Get a larger wrench.

Hammers:

- ☞ Use the right hammer for the job and grip the handle close to the butt end.
- ☞ Make the hammer's head follow the same path every time, hitting the nail dead center and at a right angle ("grooving" your swing).
- ☞ Replace cracked heads and loose or cracked handles.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

"Things turn out the best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."
John Wooden (1910 - 2010)
American basketball player and coach



From the State of Delaware's Office of Highway Safety...

You Can't Hide From A DUI

A DUI will follow you everywhere. That is the message that OHS would like to convey to all the people who live and work in Delaware. Each person who is arrested and convicted of Driving under the Influence faces the following consequences:

- Loss of license.
- Fines, court costs, and attorney fees averaging \$3,400.
- Possible jail time.
- Mandatory alcohol and drug counseling.
- Possible ignition interlock device.
- Higher insurance rates.
- Plus, time off from work for court appearances.

In 2012, 52% of all traffic fatalities were alcohol involved. In addition, more than 4,300 people were arrested for Driving under the Influence.

You can't hide from the impact a DUI will have on your life. Avoid a DUI at all costs. Designate a Sober Driver every time you go out and plan to drink. For more information, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov and www.duirealtime.com.

Drive Sober. Arrive Alive DE.