

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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HARD HATS: **USE & CARE FOR THE READY MIXED CONCRETE INDUSTRY**

What About Hard Hats?

Probably the most recognized piece of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is used in the ready mixed concrete industry is the hard hat. It is designed to protect us from impact from falling objects and accidental contact with hard objects and in some cases electrical current. How a hard hat is worn and how a hard hat is maintained has a direct correlation with how effective it is in times of emergencies.

Hard Hat Use Recommendations

Concrete producers need to ensure that all employees understand the basics of proper hard hat use. First, no matter if you are a yardman, mixer driver or even the company president, it's a must to wear your hard hat whenever you are in a hard hat required area. Inspect your hard hat shell and suspension every day before use for deterioration and damage (holding it up to a bright light is helpful). Adjust your hard hat so that it fits snugly, but comfortable. The hard hat should never be worn backwards unless it is a reverse donning type. Finally, note the manufactured date imprinted on the inside of the hard hat to determine replacement cycles.



Actions

Considerations for hard hats:

- Think first
- Clean a hard hat with mild soap and water
- When not in use, store the hard hat out of direct sun light
- Replace the hard hat shell or suspension when damaged
- Do not use solvents to clean the hard hat; they may affect its integrity
- Do not paint hard hats which hinders the ability to detect shell damage
- Do not apply stickers that hinder the ability to detect shell damage
- Do not modify or alter a hard hat by drilling holes to mount an attachment
- Chin straps may be used, but only if following manufacturer recommendations
- Do not wear a ball cap beneath the hard hat
- During cold weather, use a liner recommended by the hard hat manufacturer



Resources

For more information on hard hat care and use please follow the links below:

NRMCA: [Concrete Delivery Professional Program](#)

NRMCA: [Safety Series #5: Personal Protective Equipment](#)

OSHA: [PPE Standard](#), [PPE Publication](#)

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