



# SAFETY SHORTS

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - HARDHATS



“Hardhats” are basic, potentially lifesaving protective equipment. However, they will only protect you if you wear them when you should and wear them properly.

Maine occupational safety regulations for public sector employees require that hardhats be worn by employees any time that:

- **They are exposed to the hazard of falling objects that could injure the head.** *This includes working with others at or above head level, working near lifting/hoisting operations, working in manholes or trenches, and in proximity to bucket loaders or construction equipment.*
- **They are exposed to accidental head contact with live electrical parts.** *This usually is an issue only for linemen and electricians.*

Hardhats should be selected based on a hazard assessment of the workplace. Protective helmets must comply with ANSI Z89.1.

### **KNOW AND FOLLOW YOUR EMPLOYER’S PPE PROGRAM AS IT APPLIES TO HARDHATS!**

To protect you properly, your hardhat must be worn properly:

- Adjust the suspension just tight enough so that it won’t move when you roll your head side to side.
- NEVER store any material between the shell and suspension. That space is there to save your skull!
- NEVER paint, drill or otherwise modify a hardhat without manufacturer approval.
- Inspect hardhats routinely for damage or deterioration on the shell or suspension. If damaged or defective, discard and obtain a replacement!