ThirdCoast Underwriters
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Toolbox Talk

Head Protection

What are the hazards that require head protection?

- Falling objects
- Flying particles
- Electric shock
- Overhead spills of chemicals, acid or hot liquids

Safety helmets (Discuss construction and usage of the type your employees wear)

- Full-brimmed
- Brimless with peak
- Bump caps — for use where a brim might get in the way; in confined spaces where exposure is limited to bumping; should *never* be worn where there is exposure to more serious hazards
- Hair protection caps — for use by employees with long hair who work around chains, belts or other machines

Design features – Safety helmets

- Suspension
  - The distance between the top of a head and the helmet shell is known as the "crown clearance"; it determines the amount of protection offered against impact and penetration
  - A suspension that is too rigid can transmit the shock of impact and fracture the neck vertebrae
  - A suspension that is too flexible permits contact with the head upon impact, causing skull fracture or concussion
  - A damaged or worn suspension should be replaced immediately
- Chin strap: made of leather, fabric or elastic; prevents the hat from falling or being blown off

Proper use and care of safety helmets

- Never leave your safety helmet on the rear window shelf of an auto or truck; sunlight may affect its protective quality, and an emergency stop can turn the helmet into a dangerous missile
- Never keep anything under your safety hat (pack of cigarettes, wallet) — it interferes with the suspension
- Clean the hat and suspension regularly (at least every 30 days)
- Never attempt to repair the shell of a hat once it has been broken or punctured; discard damaged helmets
- Replace a damaged helmet immediately
- Never drill holes in a safety hat to "improve ventilation" or cut notches in the brim
- Make sure that it is fitted properly; it should not give you any discomfort or headache
- Never remove the suspension for any reason

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Topic:

Date:

Presented by:

Organization/Department Name

Attendee Printed Name	Signature

Comments:

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