



Risk Control BULLETIN

By: R. Scott Wood, Senior Risk Management Advisor

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

When engineering and administrative controls are not feasible or effective in reducing exposure to hazards to acceptable levels, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) may offer desired protection. PPE includes all clothing and accessories designed to protect against safety and health hazards.

If PPE is to be used, a PPE program should be implemented. This program should address the hazards present; and the selection, maintenance, and use of PPE. In addition, attend to the training of employees and monitoring of the program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness. PPE is categorized by the area of the body protected, the type of hazard, and by the type of garment or accessory needed for adequate protection.

Head Protection — If you work in locations where there are risks of receiving head injuries, wearing approved head protection is highly recommended. Hard hats/helmets are the most common type of head PPE. They have a hard outer shell and a shock absorbing lining that incorporates a headband and straps that suspend away from the head. This design provides shock absorption during an impact and ventilation during normal wear. In general, protective helmets or hard hats are designed to:

- Protect your head from falling or flying objects.
- Cushion the blow if you hit your head on something.

- Insulate you from burns and electric shocks (if it's a non-conductive type).
- Prevent your hair from being tangled in machinery or equipment.



Photo source: Cal/OSHA

Inspection and maintenance of your hard hat should never be ignored. If your hard hat is going to provide you with maximum protection, it must be in good condition. Inspect it regularly and replace any part or the entire helmet if necessary. Never take a chance with your safety. Hard hat straps/suspension should be replaced after no more than twelve months, and the entire helmet replaced after five years of use.

Hand Protection — Potential hand hazards include: skin absorption of harmful substances, chemical or thermal burns, electrical dangers, bruises, abrasions, cuts, punctures, fractures, and amputations. Gloves are important, but they are not all the same. It is important that the proper glove is selected for the job as follows:

- Use **wire mesh gloves** if there is an extreme danger of cuts.
- Use **insulated rubber gloves** (with canvas or leather outer gloves) for electrical work.
- Use **non-flammable gloves** when welding.
- Only special **chemical resistant gloves** will protect you from chemicals. Different types stop different chemicals from getting through to your skin. The package should tell you which chemicals the glove is designed for.

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Look at the photo below to identify what is wrong in the picture. You may want to review this picture during your next safety meeting.



H.R. LA BOUNTY SAFETY AWARDS PROGRAM

Cut off date:
October 16, 2017

[http://www.acwajpia.com/
filecabinet/rmnopw/
Safety_Awards_Nomination.pdf](http://www.acwajpia.com/filecabinet/rmnopw/Safety_Awards_Nomination.pdf)

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Answer - What's Wrong With This Picture?

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Answer:

- Little to no upstream taper
- Traffic control devices have chevrons (slanted stripes) facing incorrect direction. The chevrons should be sloped down toward the traffic lane, not toward the work zone.
- While the 29-inch cone with two retro-reflective stripes is approved by the MUTCD for nighttime work, the lack of uniformly with traffic control devices can further confuse road users.