

## DISTRICT SAFETY & HEALTH NOTES

### Hard Hat Information

30 CFR 56/57.15002 states that *“All persons shall wear suitable hard hats when in or around a mine or plant where falling objects may create a hazard.”*

What is a “suitable hard hat”?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z89.1-2003 describes types and classes for industrial helmets, commonly known as hard hats.

Type I hard hats are intended to reduce the force of impact resulting from a blow to the top of the head (falling object protection).



Type II hard hats are intended to provide protection against both side impact and blows to the top of the head.

Three classes indicate the electrical insulation rating of the hard hat. Class G (general) hard hats are tested at 2200 volts, Class E (electrical) are tested to withstand 20,000 volts, and Class C (conductive) provide no electrical protection.

The three classes were established in 1997 and replaced older classes A, B, and C, respectively.

The ANSI designation for the type and class of a hard hat should be contained in a label inside the shell of the hard hat.

To extend the useful life of your hard hat, wash it regularly with hot water and mild soap. Use a gentle scrub brush to clean the shell and a soft sponge to wipe the suspension and headband. Rinse the hard hat in clear water and then inspect it carefully for any signs of damage.



Replace your hard hat when cracks appear in the shell, the shiny surface appears dull or chalky, or the shell becomes brittle.

Replace your suspension when it becomes brittle or won't hold securely to your head, one or more of the mounts breaks off, or the cradling straps break or become worn.

Employees should be aware that hard hats do not eliminate hazards and they are only effective if worn and used properly.



Please contact your local MSHA office if you have any questions about your hard hat or other personal protective equipment.