

# HARD HAT INSPECTIONS

## Your Mind is Your Most Important Tool PROTECT IT!

HARD HATS ARE ONE OF THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT USED IN THE WORKPLACE. THESE DURABLE HATS PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT PROTECTION AGAINST FALLING OBJECTS, BUMPS AND OTHER HAZARDS, BUT THEY DO NOT LAST FOREVER.

- **REGULAR INSPECTIONS:** IT'S IMPORTANT TO INSPECT YOUR HARD HAT DAILY.
- **HOW TO CONDUCT A HARD HAT INSPECTION:** CHECK YOUR HARD HAT FOR DAMAGES AND DETERIORATION.
- **REPLACE AFTER AN INCIDENT** - IF INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT, YOUR HARD HAT SHOULD BE REPLACED.
- **WHEN TO REPLACE:** IF ANY DAMAGE OR DETERIORATION IS OBSERVED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business



# HARD HAT INSPECTIONS

**REGULAR INSPECTIONS:** Hard hats wear out over time. The suspension of the hard hat can become loose or weak after extended use. Very hot or very cold environments or places exposed to UV radiation or steady heat will wear your hard hat out more quickly.

## HOW TO CONDUCT A HARD HAT INSPECTION:

1. Compress the shell from both sides about 1 inch with your hands and release the pressure without dropping the shell. The shell should return to its original shape quickly. If the shell being tested does not have as much elasticity as the new one, or if the shell cracks, it should be replaced immediately.
2. Check the hard hat for excessive fading in colour as this can be a sign of deterioration from UV exposure.
3. Inspect the suspension system closely for cracks, cuts or frayed shell straps, torn headband, loss of pliability or other signs of wear. Replace the suspension if you find any damage. If any damages are observed remove the hard hat from service immediately.

**INSPECTIONS AFTER AN INCIDENT** - If a hard hat is involved in an incident and was struck by an object remove the hard hat from service. Even if it looks fine on the outside, the hat suspension may have damage which will dramatically reduce the amount of protection it can provide.

**WHEN TO REPLACE A HARD HAT** - In general, it is recommended to replace a hard hat after five years, even if there is no visible sign of damage. In more extreme working environments, hard hats should be replaced more frequently. In some cases, the suspension within the hat can be replaced but when there is damage to the outer shell, replace the entire unit.

### HARD HAT DOS

- Do inspect headwear before each use.
- Do replace headwear that has been struck, even if no damage is visible.
- Do clean the suspension and shell regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do remove and replace a hard hat if its protection features are questionable.

### HARD HAT DON'TS

- Don't transport headwear in rear windows of vehicles.
- Don't paint the plastic shell. Paint solvents can make the plastic brittle and more susceptible to cracks.
- Don't use winter liners that contain metal or electrically conductive material under Class G or E headwear.
- Don't put anything between the suspension and the shell. (i.e. pressure bandage)