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# Hard Hats to Helmets

*Why Should We Make the Change ?*



**Joseph Whiteman, CSP,  
CHST**

Director of Safety Services  
American Society of Concrete  
Contractors



# AGENDA

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- Introductions
- My call to action- beyond the injury...
- What are TBIs?
- History of hard hats
- Technical and performance standards
- Why should I make the change
- Future technology improvements
- Helmet Rating Program
- H2H Website
- Case Study
- Questions

# Who is ASCC?

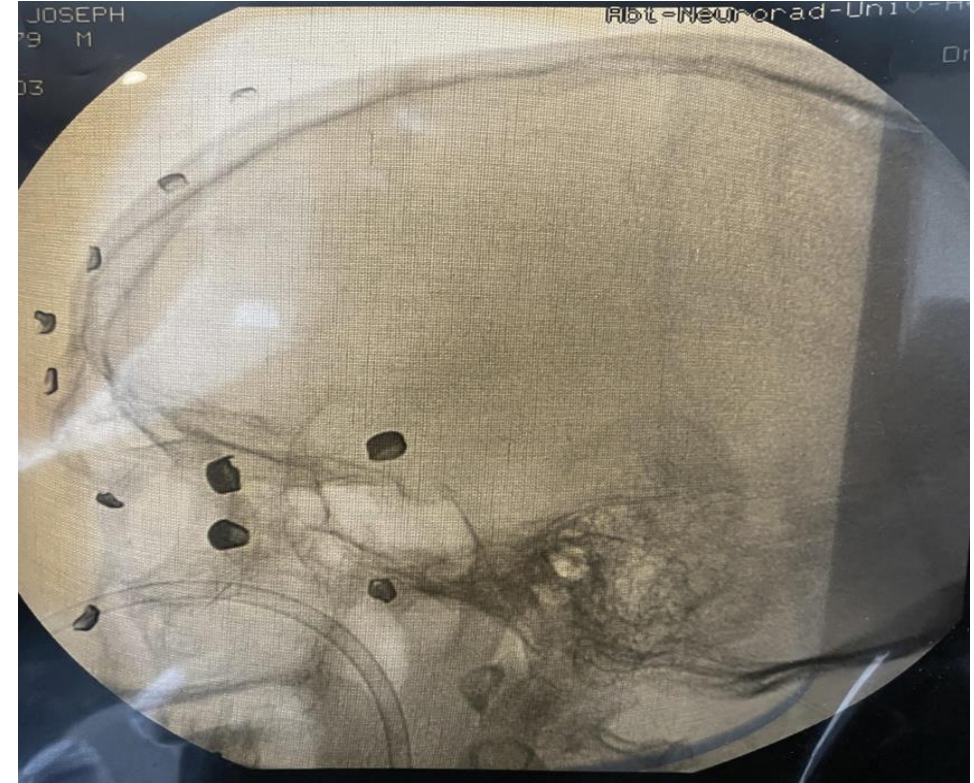
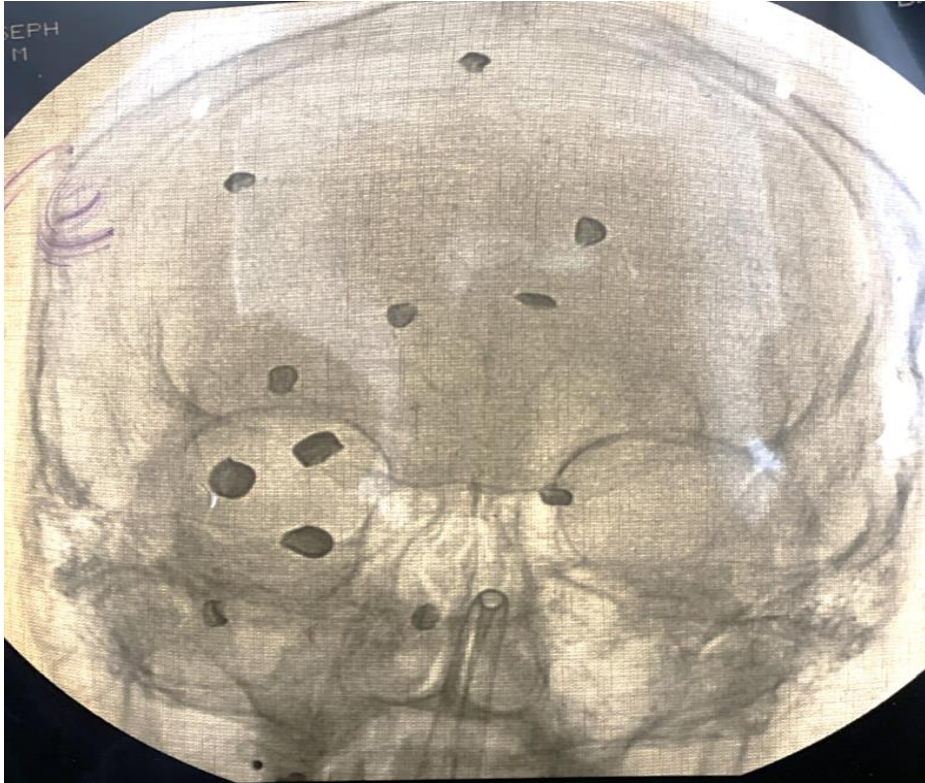
- Founded in 1964
- Represent over 800 Companies Worldwide
- Concrete Contractors, General Contractors, Manufacturers, Designers, Suppliers and other Concrete Industry Professionals
- Unmatched Industry Knowledge, Best Practices , Recognition
- Safety Centric
- Concierge Trade Association



Enhancing the Capabilities of Those Who Build with Concrete



# My Call to Action- August 18, 2003



# September 17, 2023



# Welcome to Epilepsy...

- Common long term side effect in TBIs to Frontal and Temporal Lobes (manifests appx 20 yrs.).
- First time seeing a Neurologist since separating from military service- over 20 years!
- Cleveland Clinic found that 65% of men avoid going to the doctor as long as possible, even when they have symptoms of a serious condition.
- No idea of potential for seizures... Impact and emotional toll on my wife and kids.

# Managing Chronic Health Impacts

- **Psychosocial Adjustment-** Managing emotional challenges, physical limitations, and changes in relationships and routines.
- **Health-Related Quality of Life Impact-** Effects of a health condition on physical, emotional, and social well-being, including medication and family dynamics.
- **Burden of Illness or Disease-** The overall impact of a condition on life, including symptoms, mental health, and relationships.
- **Living with Residual Trauma-** Coping with long-term emotional and physical effects, including educating family and managing shame or fear
- **Chronic Illness or Injury Adaptation-** Adjusting to lifestyle changes and lasting effects of a chronic condition or injury.



# Traumatic Brain Injury

## CDC defines TBI as:

- Blow or jolt to the head or penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain.
- Ranges from “mild” i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness to “severe” i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury. Potentially fatal.

TBI claims average \$150,000 ++  
LTA claims average \$ 50,000

17% of claims between \$3 million and \$5 million. 30% of claims costing more than \$10 million.





[Home](#)

## NIOSH: Construction workers at high risk for traumatic brain injuries

March 29, 2016

Morgantown, WV – Construction workers sustain more traumatic brain injuries than employees in any other type of workplace in the United States, according to a recent report from NIOSH.

Safety interventions must be emphasized in the construction industry, in which more than 100 workers died of a traumatic brain injury from 2003 to 2010, researchers said.

Traumatic brain injuries represented one-quarter of all construction fatalities during the eight-year study period, according to the report. More than half of fatal work-related traumatic injuries result of falls – particularly from roofs, ladders and scaffolds. Workers 65 and older were nearly three times more likely to sustain a fatal traumatic brain injury than workers 25 to 34 years old. Meanwhile, workers at organizations with fewer than 20 employees were more than 2.5 times more likely to die from a traumatic brain injury than those who worked for organizations with more than 100 employees.

Srinivas Konda addressed the findings in a March 21 [NIOSH blog post](#). Konda is an associate research fellow in the NIOSH Division of Safety Research.

**From 2003 to 2010, 2,210 fatal TBIs occurred in construction at a rate of 2.6 per 100,000 FTE workers. 25% of all construction fatalities.**

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE 59:212–220 (2016)

### Fatal Traumatic Brain Injuries in the Construction Industry, 2003–2010

Srinivas Konda, MPH,\* Hope M. Tiesman, PhD, and Audrey A. Reichard, MPH

**Background** Research on fatal work-related traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) is limited. This study describes fatal TBIs in the US construction industry.

**Methods** Fatal TBIs were extracted from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

**Results** From 2003 to 2010, 2,210 fatal TBIs occurred in construction at a rate of 2.6 per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. Workers aged 65 years and older had the highest fatal TBI rates among all workers (7.9 per 100,000 FTE workers). Falls were the most frequent injury event (n = 1,269, 57%). Structural iron and steel workers and roofers had the highest fatal TBI rate per 100,000 FTE workers (13.7 and 11.2, respectively). Fall-related TBIs were the leading cause of death in these occupations.

**Conclusions** A large percentage of TBIs in the construction industry were due to falls. Emphasis on safety interventions is needed to reduce these fall-related TBIs, especially among vulnerable workers. Am. J. Ind. Med. 59:212–220, 2016. Published 2016. This article is a U.S. Government work and is in the public domain in the USA.

# Innovation In Fall Protection

- Technology and improvements progressed rapidly over the years .
- More specific to scope, trades and fall hazards.
- Head protection technology has been relatively stagnant by comparison.





# Isn't There Something Better?



# Looking At The Past



1929

Bullard for mining and then Navy ship building. Made from steamed canvas, leather brim, black paint and glue



1930's

Hard hats evolved and were made from metals



1940's

MSA Skullguard fiberglass





1969

MSA in Space

[MORE INFO](#)



1960s

International P

[MORE INFO](#)



1961

New Helmets Introduced

In 1961, the Topgard® Helmet was introduced, which was the first polycarbonate hardhat. Polycarbonate is an extremely durable plastic that is very difficult to crack or break. A year later in 1962, the V-Gard® Helmet launched. Today, both helmets are part of the family of "best-selling helmets."



1960s

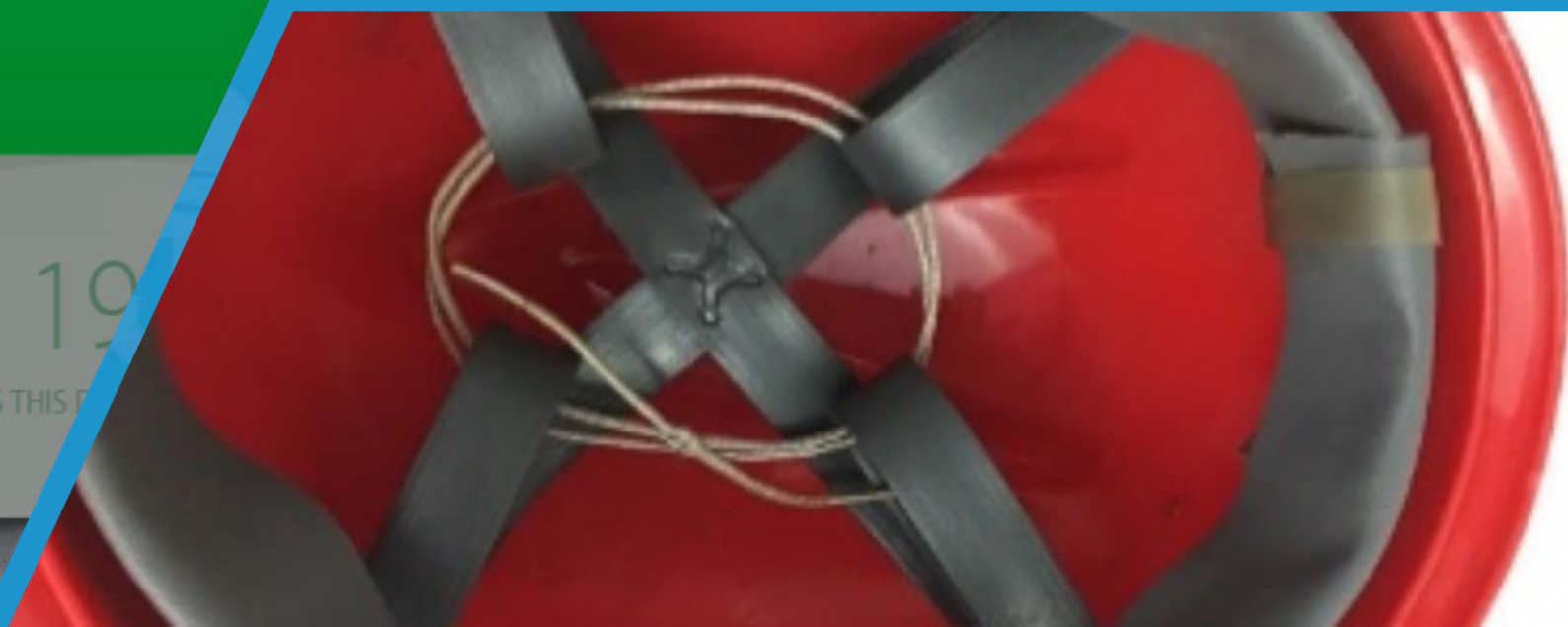
Gas Masks for the military

[MORE INFO](#)

1960 - 19

[VIEW ALL EVENTS THIS P](#)

20s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s



# OSHA Requirements

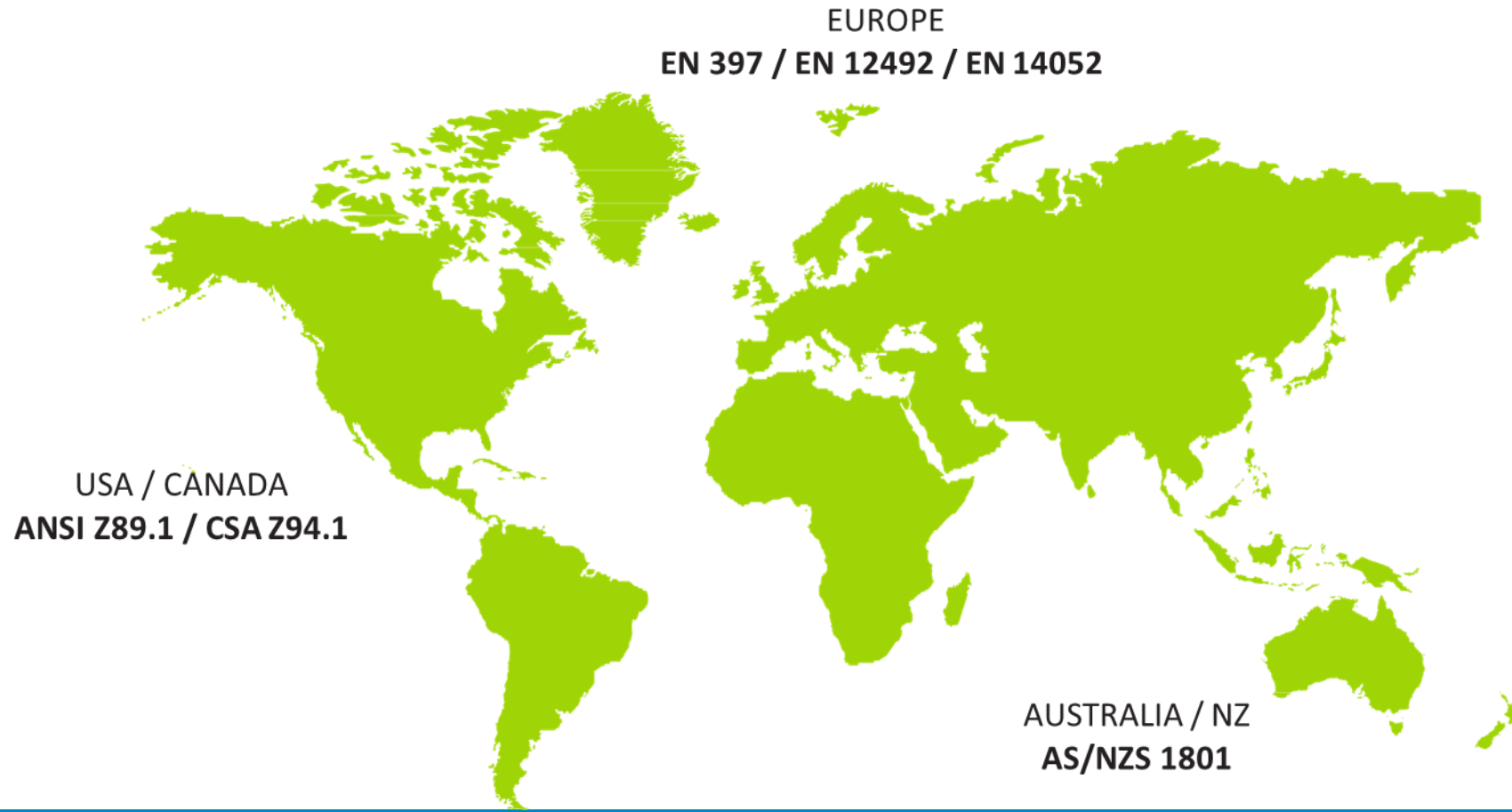
- **Part Number:** 1926
- **Part Number Title:** Safety and Health Regulations for Construction
- **Subpart:** 1926 Subpart E
- **Subpart Title:** Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment
- **Standard Number:** [1926.100](#)
- **Title:** Head protection.

- 1926.100(b)(1)(i) American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1- 2014, "American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection," incorporated by reference in §1926.6;
- 1926.100(b)(3) OSHA will deem any head protection device that the employer demonstrates is at least as effective as a head protection device constructed in accordance with one of the consensus standards identified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section to be in compliance with the requirements of this section.



# What Technical and Performance Standards do Helmets Meet?

# Head Protection Safety Standards Worldwide



# ANSI Z89.1 Type 1 and II

- **ANSI Z89.1 TYPE I** helmets are tested for:
  - Top impact absorption
  - Penetration resistance
  - Flame resistance
  - Electrical classification requirements (Conductive, General, Electrical)
- **ANSI Z89.1 TYPE II-** pass Type I tests **and** additional tests for:
  - Lateral impact
  - Lateral penetration
  - Impact Attenuation
  - Chin strap requirements (if applicable\*), and
  - Low/high temperature operating range
- It is important to note that an ANSI Type II helmet can be sold without a chin strap. A chin strap could be added as an accessory after purchase and not be subjected to any testing.



# NIOSH Study Breakdown

**TABLE III.** Number and Rate of Fatal TBIs per 100,000 FTE Workers in the Construction Industry by Age and Event Type—US, 2003–2010

Age group (in years)	Contact with objects and equipment		Falls		Transportation incidents		Other <sup>a</sup>	
	n (%)	Rate	n (%)	Rate	n (%)	Rate	n (%)	Rate
16–19	—	0.9	38 (51)	2.3	20 (27)	1.2	—	0.1
20–24	46 (24)	0.6	99 (52)	1.3	39 (20)	0.5	8 (4)	0.1
25–34	95 (21)	0.4	247 (54)	1.1	107 (23)	0.5	11 (2)	0.1
35–44	92 (18)	0.4	299 (58)	1.3	101 (20)	0.4	22 (4)	0.1
45–54	62 (12)	0.3	315 (59)	1.6	114 (21)	0.6	47 (9)	0.2
55–64	40 (14)	0.5	183 (62)	2.1	57 (19)	0.7	16 (5)	0.2
65 and older	—	0.8	88 (65)	5.2	25 (19)	1.5	—	0.5
Total	363 (16)	0.4	1269 (57)	1.5	463 (21)	0.6	115 (5)	0.1

- 1269 (67%) Fatalities from **FALLS!**
- 388 (24%) fell from roofs
- 301 (24%) fell from ladders
- 212 (17%) fell from scaffolds/staging
- 25 employees fell and died from the same walking/working surface
- Small contractors(<20), foreign born, older workers > risk



# OSHA Statistics

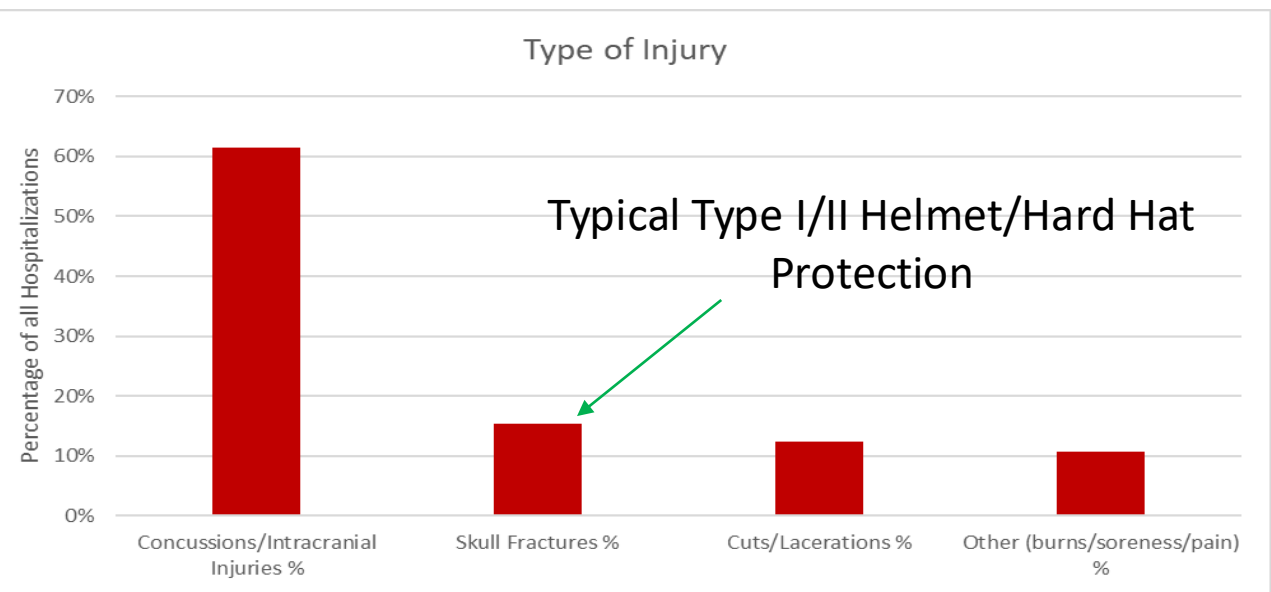
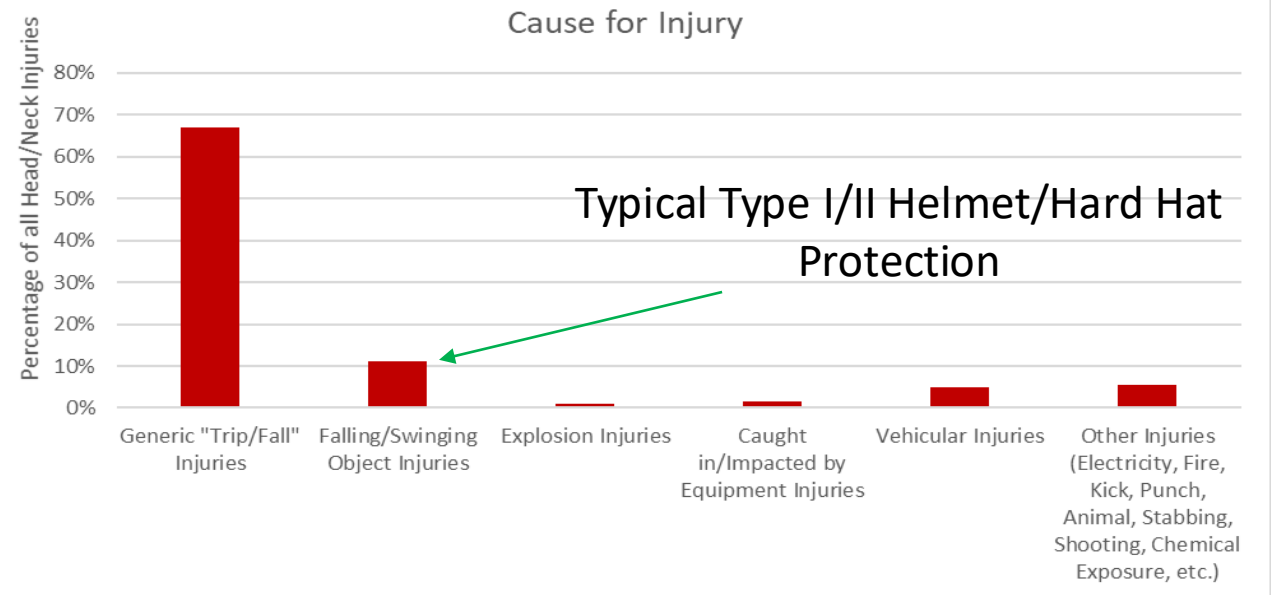
## 1883 Reported Head/Neck Injuries

- ~10% of injuries caused by falling objects
  - Typically results in Skull Fracture only
  - ANSI Type I/II designed for these impacts
- ~65% of injuries caused by slip/trip/fall
  - 6x more likely than falling object injury
  - Typically results in Concussion only
  - No comprehensive regulations for these impacts

## Concussion Injuries

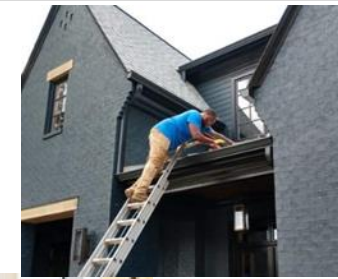
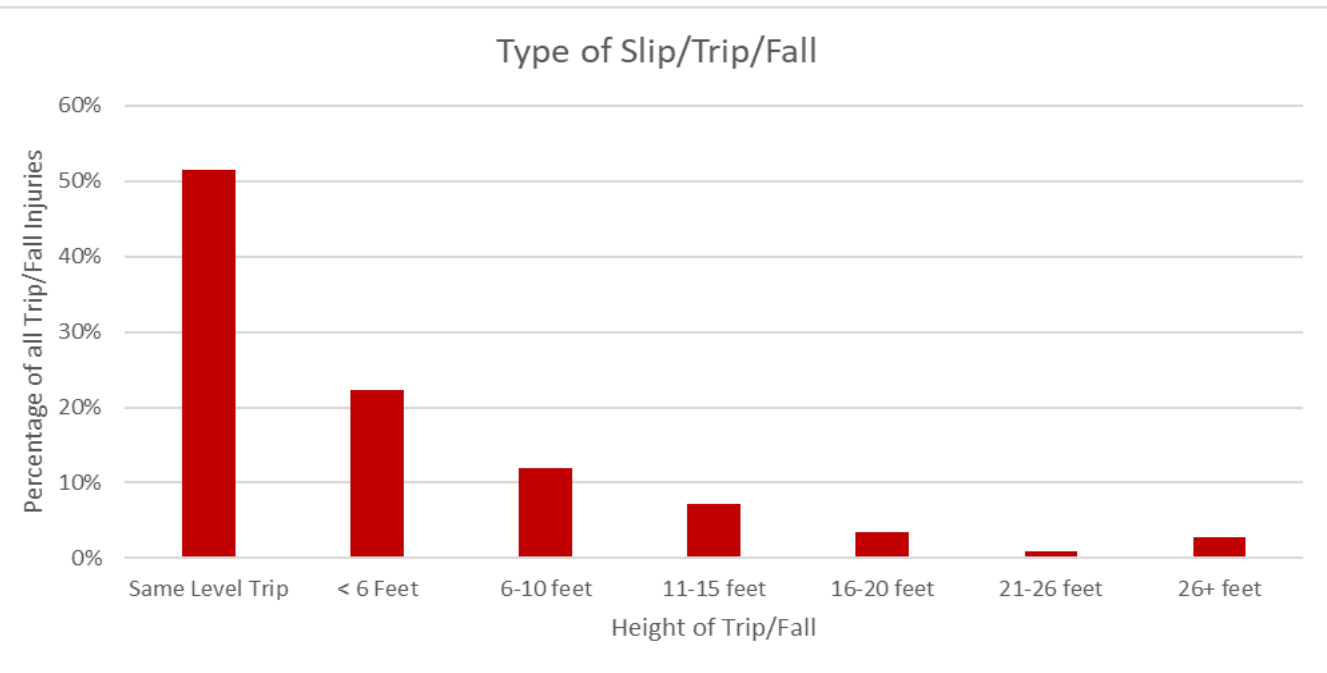
- 6x more frequent than skull fracture
- No regulations to protect from this type of injury

OSHA Injury Data (1/1/2015 - 3/31/2018) Hospitalized Cases Only



# Slip/Trip/Fall

- < 6ft Slip/Trip/Fall
  - ~75% of all injuries
- 6-15ft Fall
  - ~20% of all injuries
- > 15ft Fall
  - ~5% of all injuries



# Fatal/Nonfatal Rates

## BLS Data 2020

- Head Injury Rates per 10,000 workers

## BLS Data 2011 to 2021

- Approximately 38.7% of fatal falls to lower levels resulted in intracranial injuries.
- 52.5% of the fatal falls to a lower level occurred due to falls from structures and surfaces, with construction and occupations accounting for 51.4% of those falls.
- Construction occupations account for 19.2% of nonfatal falls to a lower level.

Fatal/nonfatal head injuries and injury rates for the 10 largest construction and extraction occupations in the U.S., 2020.

Occupation	Employment	Fatal injuries	Fatal injury rate	Nonfatal injuries	Nonfatal injury rate
Construction laborers	971,330	308	1.81	16,590	207.1
Carpenters	699,300	79	0.78	11,960	202.7
Electricians	656,510	70	0.80	7,270	128.2
Frontline supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	614,080	88	1.17	5,090	93.50
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	417,440	25	0.52	6,520	187.9
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	402,870	56	1.72	2,450	85.90
Painters, construction and maintenance	217,880	53	1.16	1,600	89.90
Cement masons and concrete finishers	195,580	7	1.30	950	57
Highway maintenance workers	149,890	15	1.60	90	118.6
Roofers	128,680	88	4.70	1,960	185.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,453,560</b>	<b>789</b>		<b>54,480</b>	

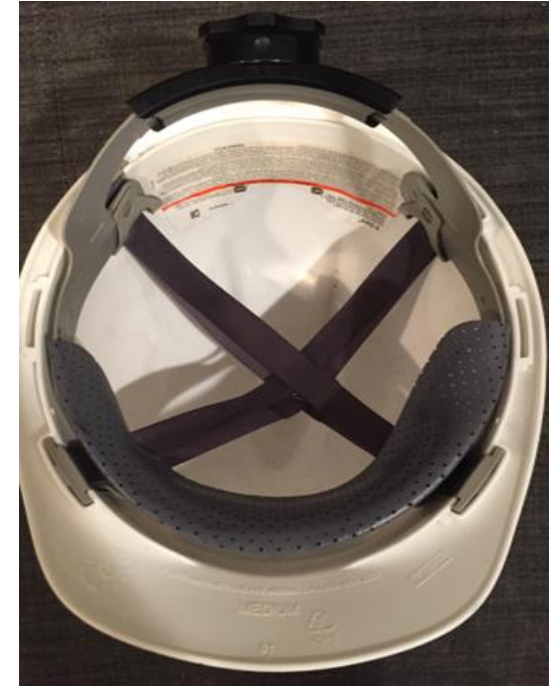
# Helmet Design and Testing





# Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)

- First Law of thermodynamics (Law of Conservation of Energy) states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed; energy can only be transferred or changed from one form to another.
- Energy from impact involving EPS is absorbed during the crushing of foam creating heat and limiting energy from reaching the head/brain.

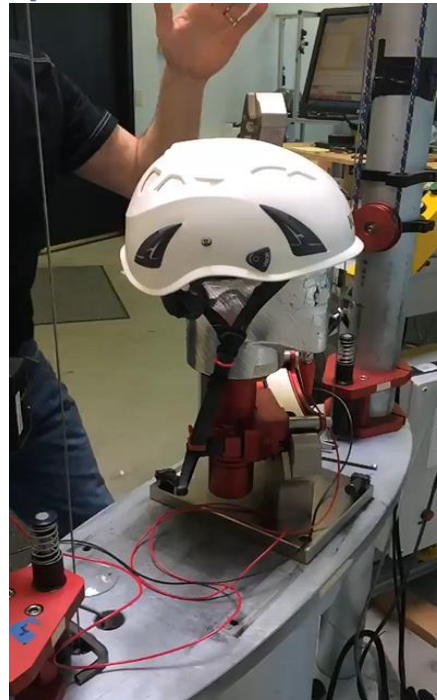


# Helmet Testing

## Force Transmission



## Apex Penetration



## Impact Attenuation



# Head Protection Materials

Outer and inner shell materials for various forms of head protection.

<b>Type of head protection</b>	<b>Outer shell material</b>	<b>Inner shell material</b>
Old hard hat	High density polyethylene (HDPE)/polycarbonate resin	Molded HDPE, nylon straps
Construction safety helmet	High density polypropylene (lighter and more resistant to high temperatures than HDPE)	High density expanded polystyrene
Bicycle	Polycarbonate	Polystyrene foam
NASCAR	Carbon composite, glass, Kevlar	Polystyrene/polypropylene
Football	Polycarbonate	Vinyl nitrile, expanded polypropylene substructure, foam and air liner; thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU)
Military	Kevlar	Polyurethane foam

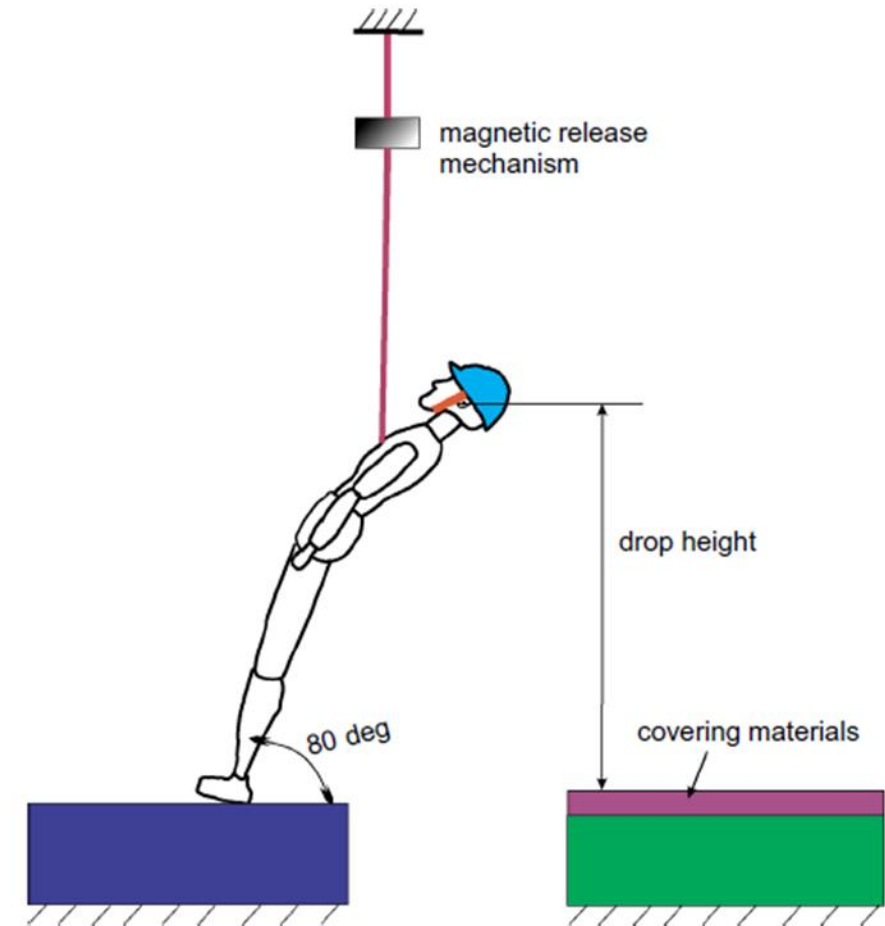


# Helmet Effectiveness

- Evaluation of the Fall Protection of Type I Industrial Helmets (1)
  - Without a hard hat or helmet – 100% probability of serious head injury
  - With a traditional hard hat ~ 65% probability of a serious head injury
  - With a helmet ~ 25% probability of a serious head injury
  - Note: In the automotive industry < 50% is the generally accepted permissible limit

1 published online 5 February 2022

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ENGINEERING  
SOCIETY





# Hard Hat vs. Safety Helmet

## HARD HAT

- Standard hard hats are 60-year-old technology
- Complying with ANSI Z89.1 (top impact and top penetration)
- When falling, a hard hat will fall off your head.
- **Designed just for falling objects**
- **5 years shelf life**
- No chinstrap and no additional lining
- Overall fit hinders movements
- Few and limited accessories
- Warranty: 1 year



## SAFETY HELMET

- **EPS foam all over the shell absorbs and dissipates the impact**
- **Complying with ANSI Z89.1/2015 (top impact and top penetration) AND additional side, rear and front impact according to mountaineering standard EN 12492 or ANSI TYPE II (with strap)**
- **Stays on your head during a slip, trip, or fall.**
- **Designed for Fall Protection & Heavy Impact**
- **10 years shelf life**
- Wide collection of accessories
- Warranty: 3-5 years







**Why Should I make the Change?**

# Safety Helmet Initiative

For **ASCC, MCAA and it's member companies** and for our Industry:

- This is about **saving lives**.
- We're trying to connect all the different pieces of a solution to provide the industry a **much better** solution.
- We want to share our vision, and hope you feel passionate about being part of this.



# Safety Helmet Initiative: Objectives



1. Ensure a significantly lower cost solution available in the U.S. Market.
  - Meets ANSI Type I requirements
  - Meets performance requirements of EN 12492 and/or ANSI Type II
  - \$30-\$40 target- Current market range \$60-\$100+
2. Start saving lives: Work with manufacturers to ensure there is supply to all interested parties. Target industry organizations, industrial clients, and major general contractors to create a trickle-down affect to their specialty contractors.
3. Lobby for Change: With lower cost solutions, we can push for change to Standards and OSHA requirements without a negative impact to the industry.
4. Watch the Market Adapt: With growing interest and changing requirements, other manufactures will bring solutions to the table. Product innovation and cost reduction will follow.

# OSHA Announcement

## OSHA Trade Release

U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Office of Communications  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)  
For Immediate Release

December 11, 2023  
Contact: Office of Communications  
Phone: 202-693-1999

### OSHA announces switch from traditional hard hats to safety helmets to protect agency employees from head injuries better

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that the agency is replacing traditional hard hats used by its employees with more modern safety helmets to protect them better when they are on inspection sites.

In 2020, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports head injuries accounted for nearly 6 percent of non-fatal occupational injuries involving days away from work. Almost half of those injuries occurred when workers came in contact with an object or equipment while about 20 percent were caused by slips, trips and falls.

Dating back to the 1960s, traditional hard hats protect the top of a worker's head but have minimal side impact protection and also lack chin straps. Without the straps, tradition hard hats can fall off a worker's head if they slip or trip, leaving them unprotected. In addition, traditional hard hats lacked vents and trapped heat inside.

On Nov. 22, 2023, OSHA published a [Safety and Health Information Bulletin](#) detailing key differences between traditional hard hats and more modern safety helmets and the advancements in design, materials and other features that help protect workers' entire heads better. Today's safety helmets may also offer face shields or goggles to protect against projectiles, dust and chemical splashes. Others offer built-in hearing protection and/or communication systems to enable clear communication in noisy environments.

The agency recommends safety helmets be used by people working at construction industry and the oil and gas industry; in high-temperature, specialized work and low-risk environments; performing tasks involving electrical work and working from heights; and when required by regulations or industry standards.

OSHA wants employers to make safety and health a core value in their workplaces and is committed to doing the same by leading by example and embracing the evolution of head protection.



# Regulatory Update



## ISEA Head Protection Committee Recommendations

- Developing “+” Designation
- Will include side/back/front impact requirements
- Will include helmet retention system (chin strap)
- Available for Type I and Type II for Class E,C or G





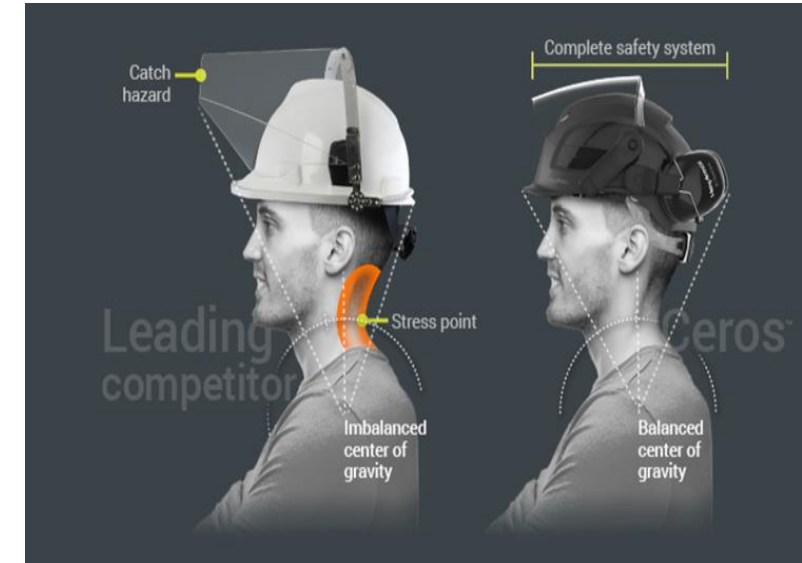
# Common Misconceptions or Objections

# Helmet Comfort and Fit



Weight – hard hat 14 oz ~400 grams

Helmets ~450-500 grams



*“I love it! It’s much more comfortable than the old hard hat” – Dave*

*“It feels a lot lighter on your head” – Steve*

*“The upgraded suspension really feels secure, and I really like how it adjusts to my head” – Ross*

# Aren't they hotter?

## Head Protection Temperature Study

Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute: Safety, Health and Environmental Services Group

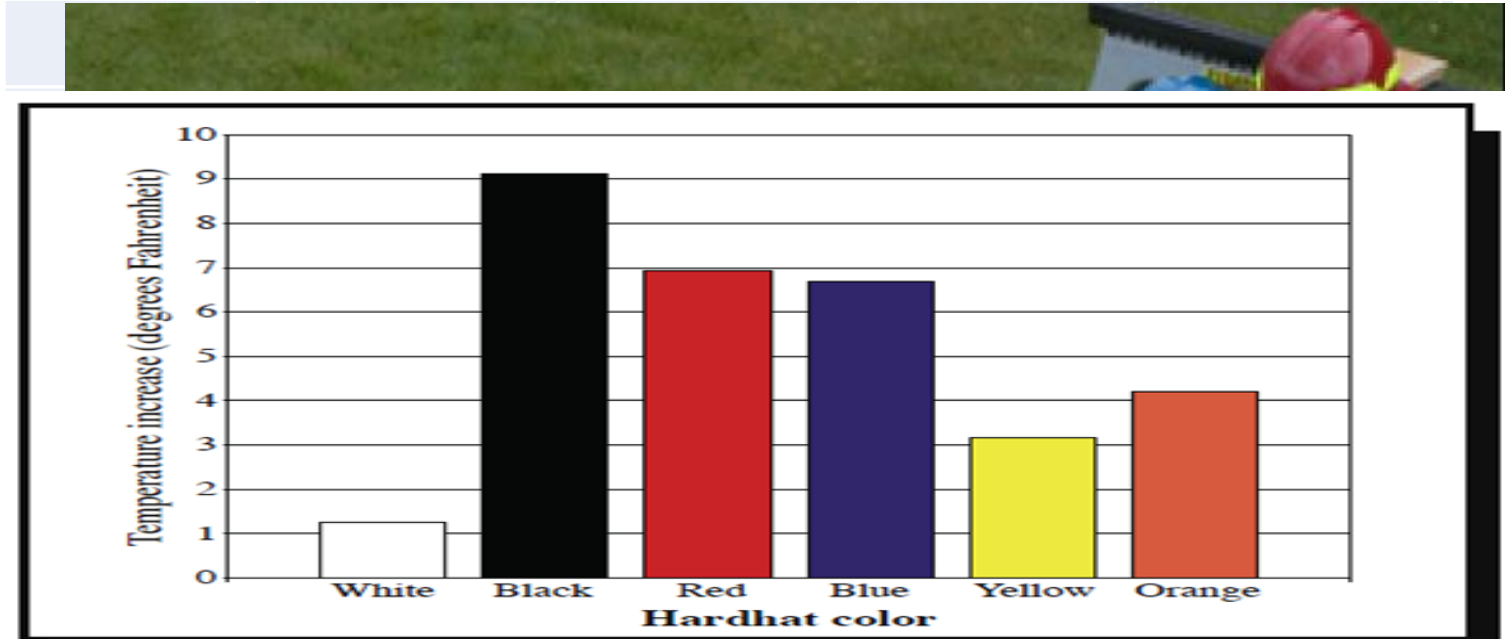
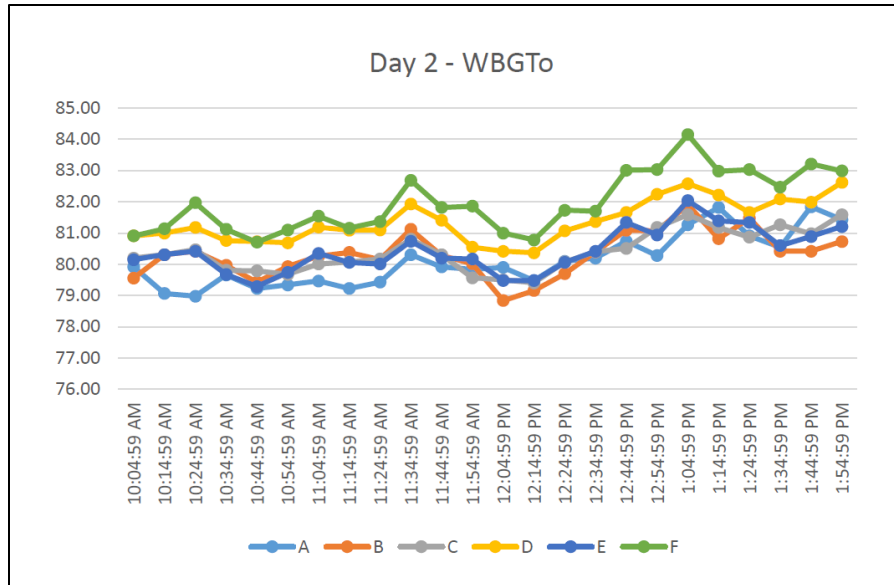
- Testing Protocol
  - Six Quest Temp 34 Heat Stress monitors (WBGT)
  - Six different head protection models
    - 4 helmets
    - 2 hard hats
    - Sponge saturated with 50 mL of water to simulate perspiration and water loss was measured at the end of each testing cycle.
    -
  - Internal and external temp. measured over 3-day period



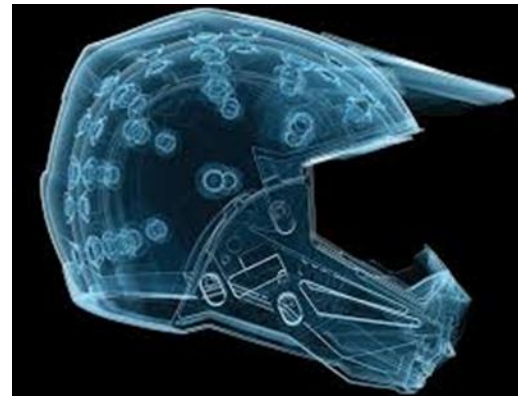
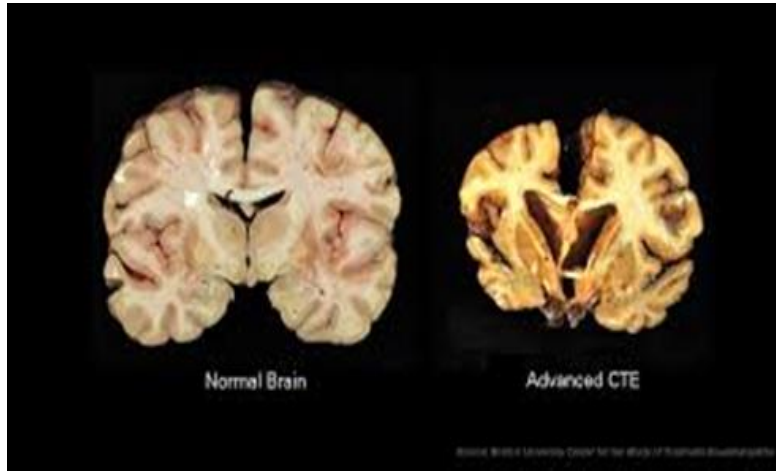
# Temperature Study Cont.

## Results

Average Ambient WBGT <sub>o</sub> - Control	Average External Surface of HH/Helmets	Average Globe - Under HH/Helmets	Average Dry - Under HH/Helmets	Average WBGT <sub>o</sub> - Under HH/Helmets	Average Grams Water Loss
86.3 °F – 87 °F	89.9 °F – 94.7 °F	89.2 °F – 93.4 °F	87.6 °F – 89.4 °F	79.8 °F – 81.6 °F	20.8 g - 32.8 g

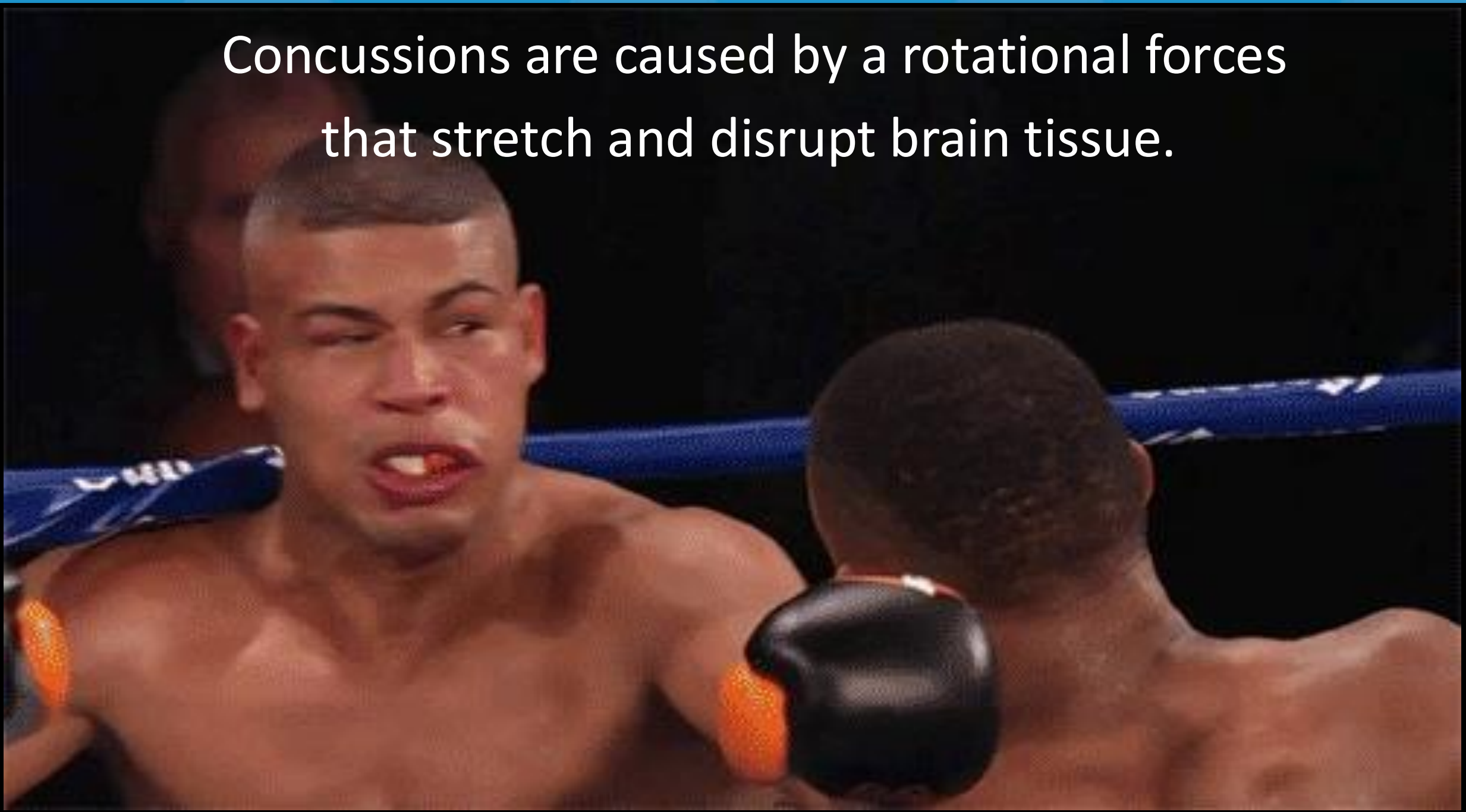


# Leveraged Innovation



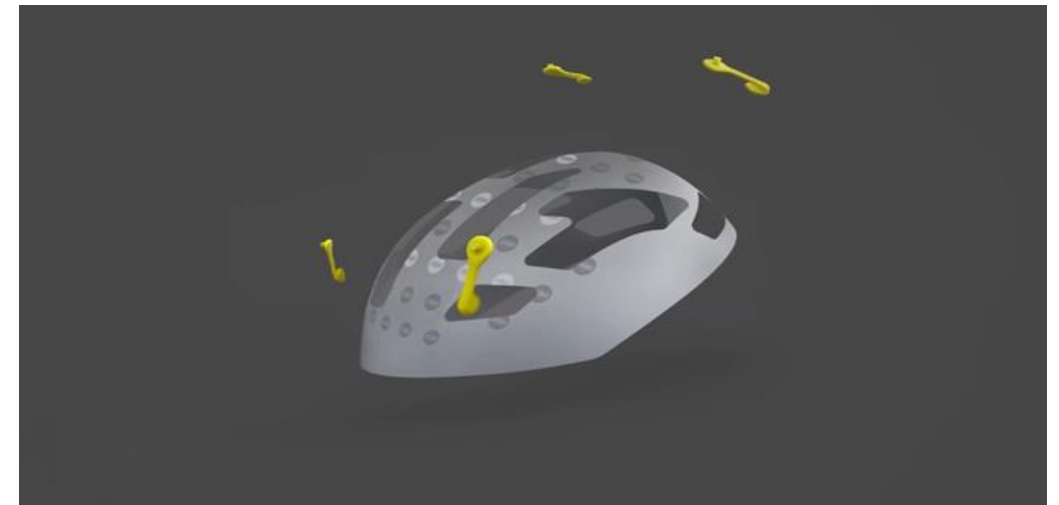


Concussions are caused by a rotational forces that stretch and disrupt brain tissue.



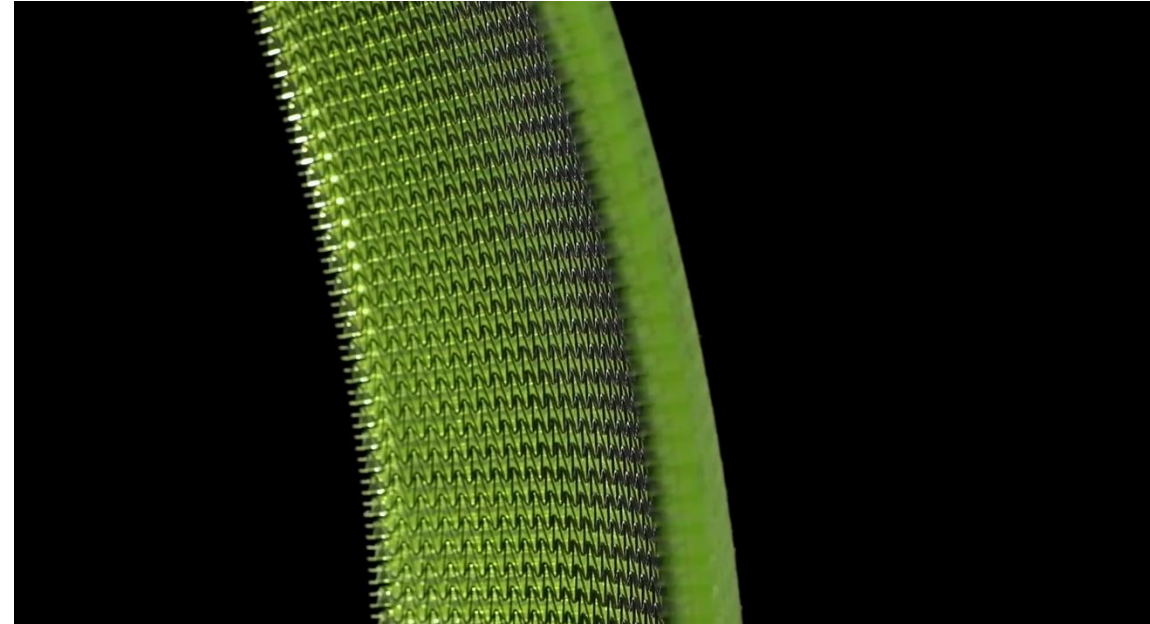
# MIPS Technology

- Multi-Directional Impact Protection System
- Reduces rotational forces caused by angled impacts to the head.
- A helmet's shell and liner are separated by a low friction layer which allows the helmet to slide, noticeably reducing trauma to the brain in the case of oblique impacts.
- MIPS layer is located between the liner and the user's head.



# Energy Absorbing Cell Technology

- A collapsible cellular structure that lines the inside of a helmet.
- It works like a crumple zone that absorbs the force of an impact before it reaches your head



*Flex*

First, the cells flex to reduce the initial frictional forces.



*Crumple*

Next, the cells crumple like a car bumper upon impact.



*Glide*

Finally, WaveCel glides to redirect energy away from your head.

## How it works

In order to protect your head and absorb the energy created by an impact, WaveCel goes through a three-step change in material structure.

# Energy Absorbing Cell Technology

Standard Helmet



Cell Type Helmet







VIRGINIA TECH  
HELMET RATINGS


Home Ratings List Lab Publications Contact

## VIRGINIA TECH HELMET RATINGS


Translating Research to Reduce Concussion Risk

Since 2011, Virginia Tech researchers have been providing unbiased helmet ratings that allow consumers to make informed decisions when purchasing helmets. The helmet ratings are the culmination of over 15 years of research on head impacts in sports and identify which helmets best reduce concussion risk. This work is done as part of Virginia Tech's service mission and is 100% independent of any funding or influence from helmet manufacturers.


- ★ Why rate helmets?
- ★ What do the helmet ratings mean?
- ★ How are ratings determined for helmets?
- ★ Will 5 star helmets prevent me from sustaining concussions?



Varsity Football



Youth Football



Flag Football



# Development and Implementation of a Rating Scheme for Hard Hats and Safety Helmets

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**Steve Rowson, PhD**

Associate Professor

Virginia Tech Helmet Lab

# Virginia Tech Helmet Lab

We are an **injury biomechanics** research lab

We have **extensive experience developing methodologies that evaluate protective headgear** under real-world loading conditions

We **disseminate complex test results through overall ratings** representative of expected injury incidence rates

# Virginia Tech Helmet Ratings

The helmet ratings program has 2 primary objectives:

1. To **inform consumers and stakeholders** of relative head injury risk differences between helmets
2. Provide manufacturers with a **design tool** to optimize helmet design to best reduce injury risk in the real world

[vt.edu/helmet](https://vt.edu/helmet)





# Helmet Ratings Areas

Developed state-of-the-art test methods for a range of sports based on real-world research

Aim to expand ratings to include occupational head protection



Football



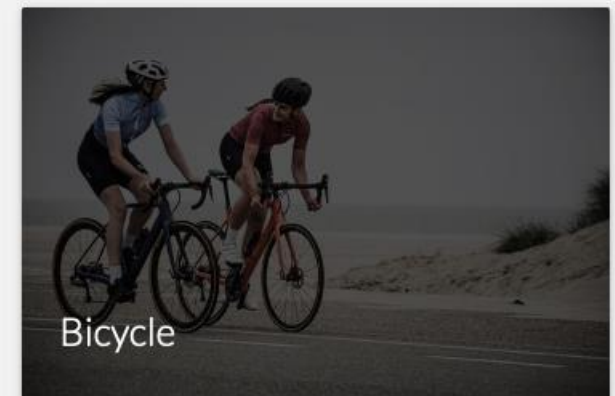
Youth Football



Flag Football



Ice Hockey



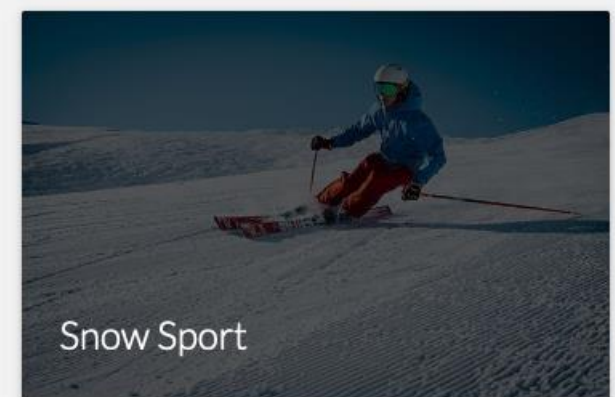
Bicycle



Equestrian



Soccer



Snow Sport



White Water Rafting

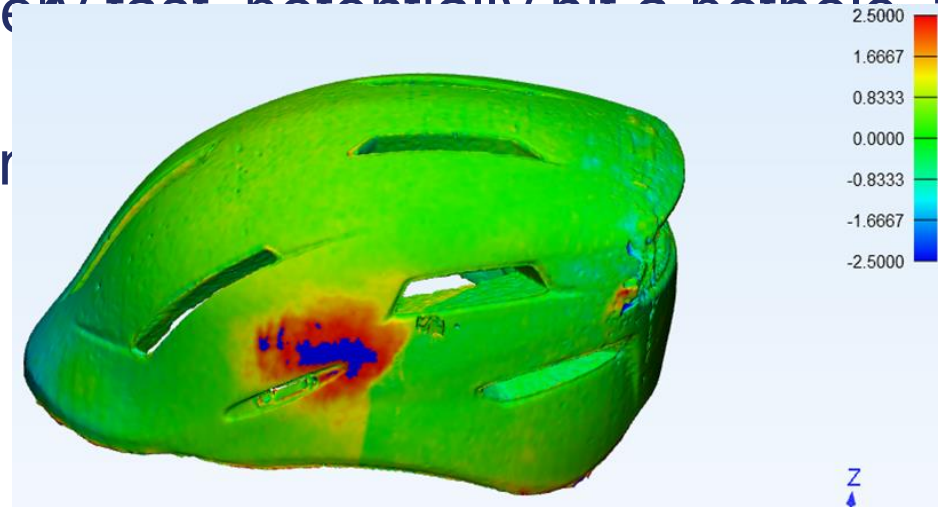
The background is a solid blue color with a repeating pattern of white bicycle helmets. Each helmet has a white cross symbol on its front. The helmets are arranged in a grid-like pattern, slightly offset from each other.

# **Example: Bicycle helmet**

# Damage reconstruction

## Real-world head impact characterization

- Accident description: "biking very fast, potentially hit a pothole, fell off bike"
- Impact location: temple



- Helmet surface: large scrapes (~4-5 cm long) and slightly pockmarked anterior to max crush
- Max crush: 3.9 mm temporal / parietal left

# Evaluating bicycle helmets

- Oblique impact rig with 45 degree anvil
  - Sandpaper coated (80 grit)
- NOCSAE headform w/ 6DOF instrumentation package
- No neck – head support ring and level arm control head during drop
- Velocity light gate





# Example bike helmet test





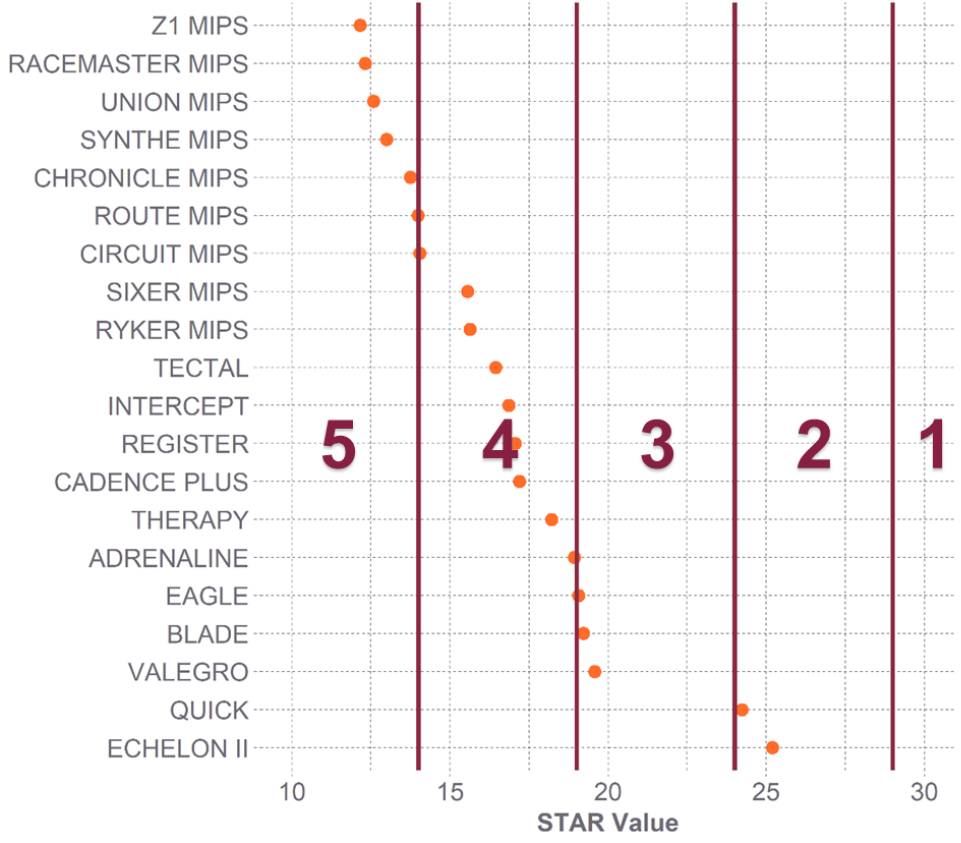
# Bicycle STAR: exposure, locations

- Equal weighting for all locations (1-time events)
- Six impact locations
  - 1 and 4 at the helmet rim
  - Commonly impacted in accidents
  - Minimum spacing 12 cm

$$STAR = \sum_{L=1}^6 \sum_{V=1}^2 E(L, V) \cdot R(A, \omega)$$



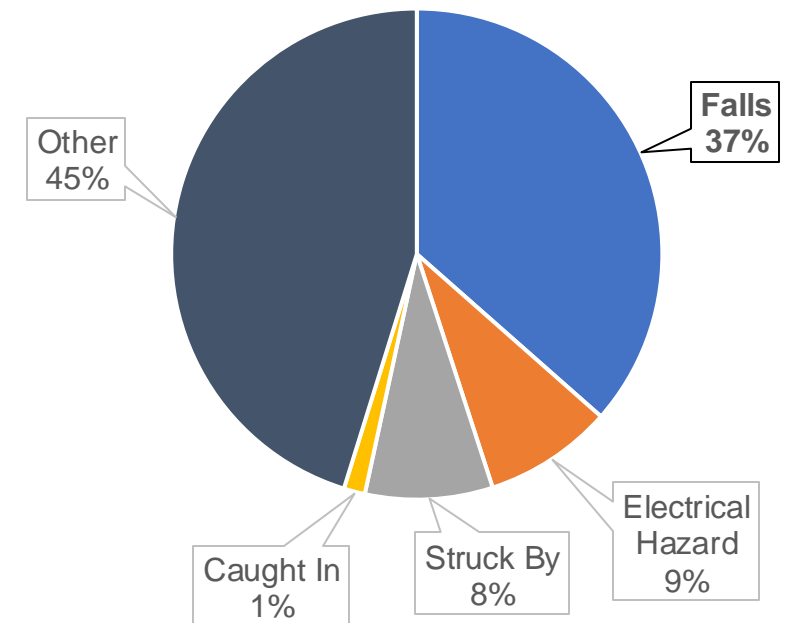
# Bike helmet ratings



# Falls in industrial settings

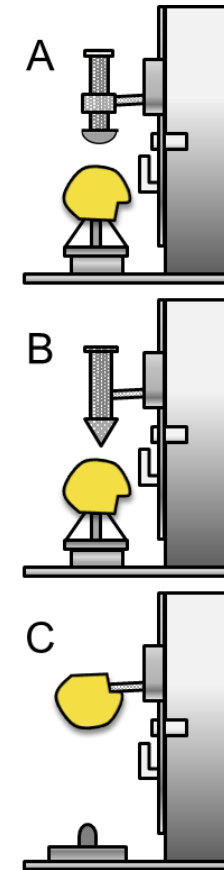
- Falls are the leading cause of fatalities and non-fatal TBIs in the construction industry
- Safety helmet standards testing are performed at too low of energies to be representative of falls
  - Bicycle: 96 J
  - Equestrian: 88 J
  - Mountaineering: 98 J
  - **Safety helmets: 31 J**

Fatalities in Construction



# Industrial head protection standard: ANSI Z89.1

Type I	Type II
Flammability	Flammability
Force transmission (Fig. A)	Force transmission (Fig. A)
Apex penetration (Fig. B)	Apex penetration (Fig. B)
	Impact energy attenuation (Fig. C)
	Off-center apex penetration
	Chin strap retention



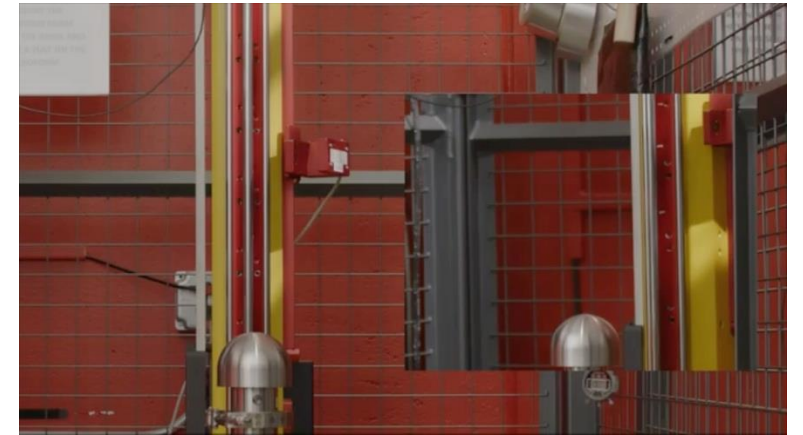
# Industrial head protection standard: ANSI Z89.1



Force transmission



Apex penetration



Impact energy

<https://www.hardhatstohelmets.org>



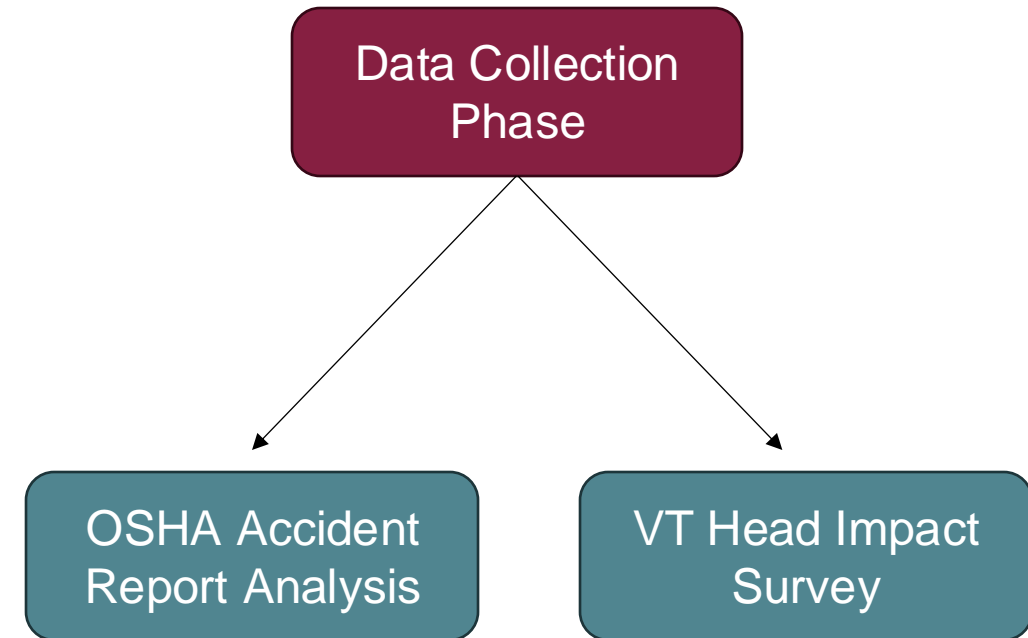
# Project objectives

1. Conduct **background research** to identify common head injury scenarios in industrial settings
2. Develop a laboratory system to accurately **replicate real-world head impacts**
3. Create an **industrial-specific rating system** to compare safety helmet models



# Objective 1

- Multiple approaches to determine which impacts to represent during the final rating system
- **OSHA accident reports**
  - Large public database giving short descriptions of workplace accidents
  - Some information on fall height, fall surface, and injuries sustained
- **VT Head Impact Survey**
  - Survey with more detailed questions
  - More accurately recreate head impacts in a laboratory setting



# Objective 1

## Characterize the conditions associated with head impacts in construction through analysis of accident reports and surveillance video

Accident: 70705.015 - Demolition Worker Falls From Stepladder And Fractures Skull.

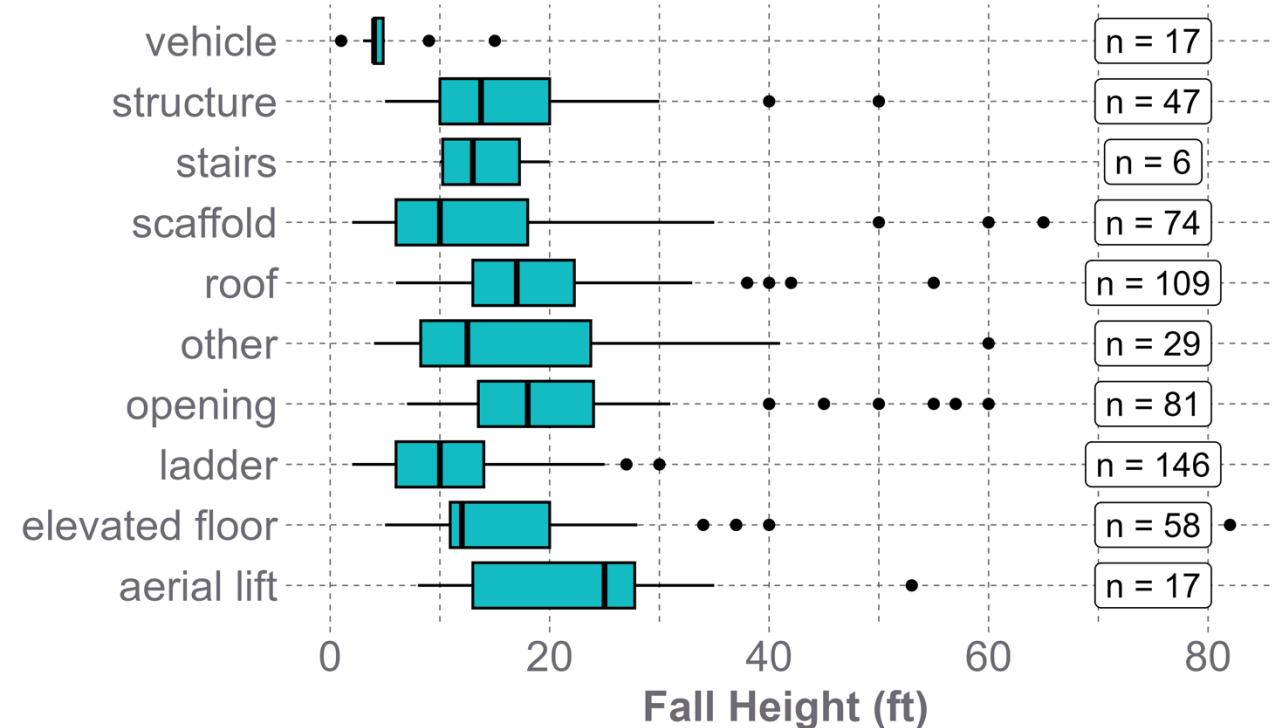
Accident: 70705.015 -- Report ID: 0950614 -- Event Date: 01/27/2015			
Inspection	Open Date	SIC	Establishment Name
1026173.015	01/28/2015		[REDACTED]
<p>At 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2015, Employee #1, employed by a construction contractor, was engaged in interior demolition work at a multifamily residential building as part of a multiemployer construction project. He was standing on a 10-foot stepladder and demolishing existing drywall. Employee #1 fell from the stepladder to the floor, a fall height of approximately 6 feet. Emergency services were called, and Employee #1 was transported to the hospital. He was admitted and treated for a fractured skull. Employee #1 spent several weeks in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. The subsequent investigation determined that Employee #1 had not received training and had overreached while working from the ladder.</p>			
<p><b>Keywords:</b> skull, demolition, fall, fracture, ladder, fall protection, construction, wall, stepladder, untrained</p>			

We are analyzing the impact energies, impact locations, head orientations of real-world head injuries

# Objective 1

## OSHA accident reports

- Date range: 1/1/2009-9/25/2024
- Search terms: “fall and concussion” or “fall and skull” or “fall and brain”
- NAICS Job Codes
  - 236 – construction of buildings
  - 237 – heavy and civil
  - 238 – specialty contractors
- **Over 600 analyzed reports**



# Objective 1

## Collecting worker survey, company reports, and video of accidents with head impact

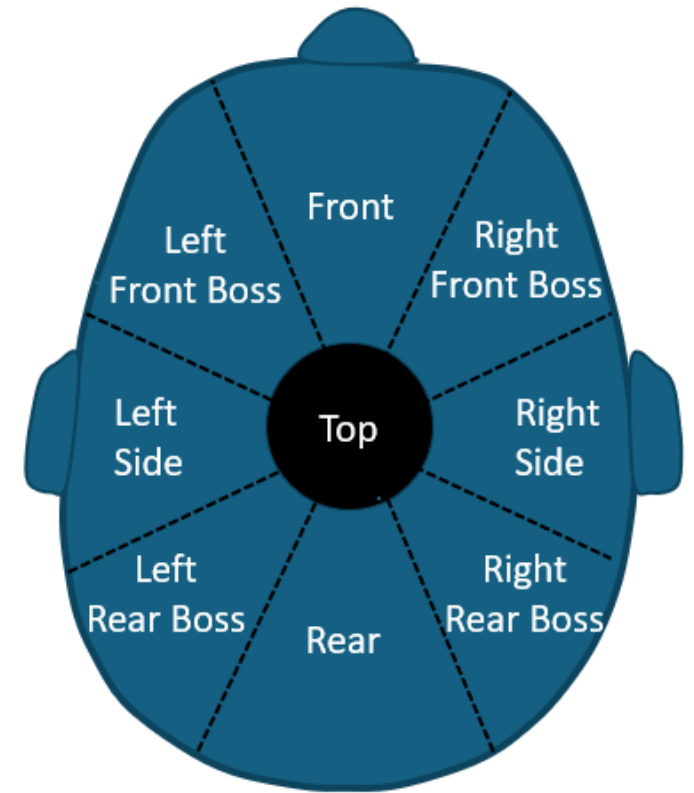
- Information and files shared with us would be confidential and not shared in any way outside our research team.
  - Process governed by our institutional review board.
- Information and shared files will be completely de-identified. We don't need or want: who it is, who they work for, or where it happened.
- Only the research team will handle information shared by companies. Files will be stored on a password-protected computer.
  - Shared files will be destroyed at the end of the project.
  - Publication of results will not discuss any individual injury event. Only summaries of the analysis as a whole will be reported on.



# Objective 1

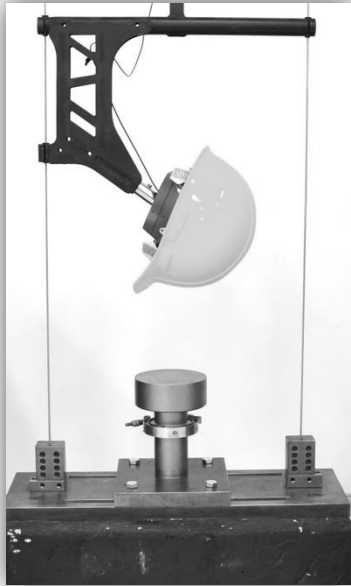
## Industrial head impact survey

- IRB approved (VT IRB 24-972)
- Questions pertaining to:
  - Head impact event
  - Head impact location
  - Fall surface
  - Fall height
  - Protective equipment worn
  - Injuries sustained
- Opportunity for follow-up phone interview



# Objective 2

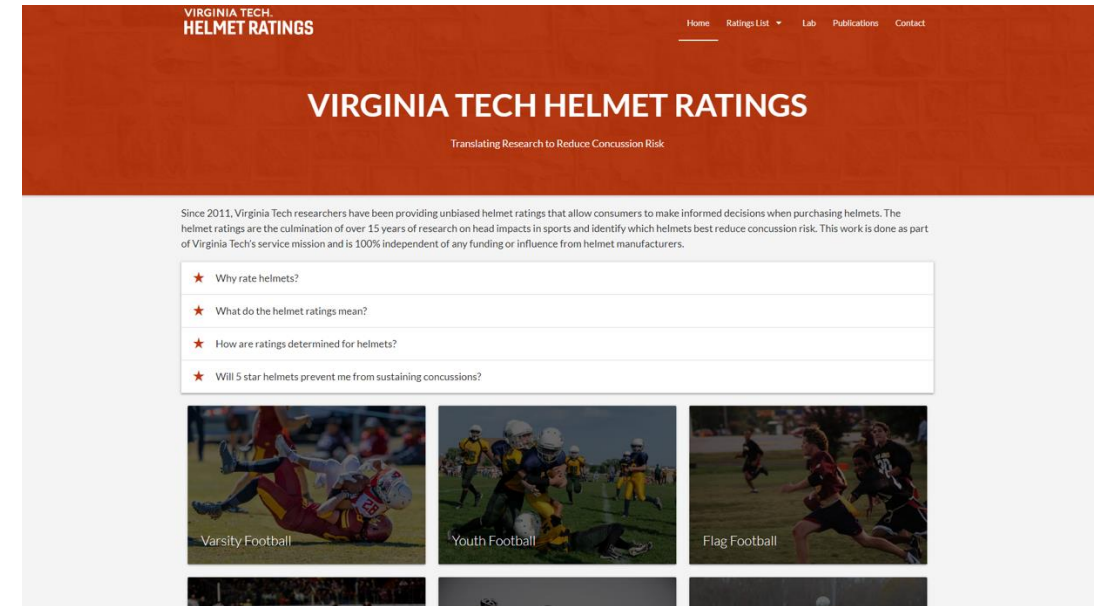
**Generalize the real-world loading conditions observed in the reconstructions to controlled laboratory test systems**



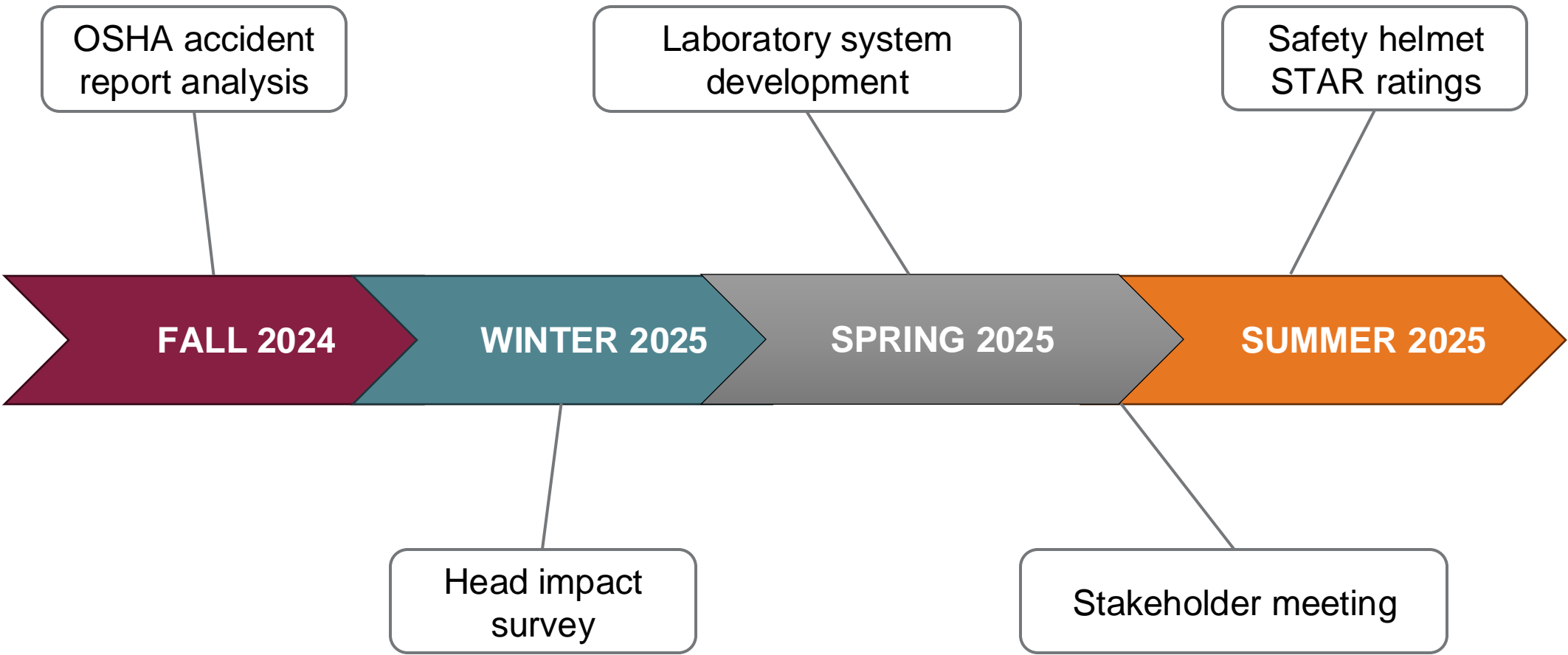
**Impacts will consider linear and rotational head acceleration**

# Objectives 3 and 4

3. Develop and implement a comprehensive rating scheme for occupational head protection representative of real-world injury risk
4. Test currently available occupational head protection and publicly release data on our helmet rating website



# Project Timeline



# Sponsors



**John R. Gentile Foundation**





# hardhatstohelmets.org



# hardhatstohelmets.org



HOME WHY HELMETS? HELMET STORIES RESOURCES ▾

## Hardhats to Helmets

Traumatic Brain Injuries are responsible for 25% of all construction fatalities, and many life-altering injuries.

MAKE THE TRANSITION

- REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADOPTION
- VENDOR INFORMATION



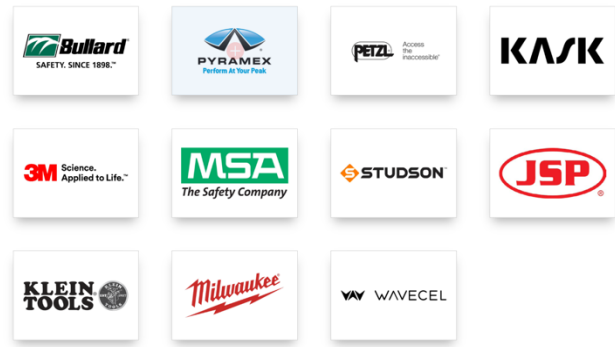
### Evaluation of the Fall Protection of Type I Industrial Helmets

John Z. Wu, Christopher S. Pond, Clayton Cook, Andrew Montemore, Tzu-Yun Kuo, and Bruce M. Weir  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV, USA  
(Received 11 October 2015; accepted 17 January 2016; published online 1 February 2016)

**Abstract**—The performance of Type I industrial helmets for fall protection is not reported in the current international standards. This paper presents the results of a study of the fall protection performance of Type I industrial helmets. The study was conducted using an experimental method. Thirty-two workers were recruited to participate in the study. The workers were divided into two groups: one group wore a hard hat and the other group wore a safety helmet. The workers were subjected to a fall from a height of 1.8 m. The results of the study show that the safety helmets provided significantly better fall protection than the hard hats. The safety helmets reduced the peak force on the neck and the risk of injury to the neck and head. The study also found that the safety helmets were more comfortable than the hard hats. The results of this study suggest that Type I industrial helmets should be used for fall protection in industrial settings.

**INTRODUCTION**  
Many epidemiological studies indicate that work-related traumatic brain injury (TBI) is one of the most serious occupational injuries among construction workers, resulting in extensive medical care, disability, and death. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is an important agency for promoting safety and health. The NIOSH has conducted many studies on occupational safety and health. The NIOSH has found that the use of safety helmets can reduce the risk of head injury in industrial settings. The NIOSH has also found that the use of safety helmets can reduce the risk of head injury in construction settings. The NIOSH has found that the use of safety helmets can reduce the risk of head injury in many other industrial settings. The NIOSH has found that the use of safety helmets can reduce the risk of head injury in many other industrial settings.

### HELMET MANUFACTURERS



# Case Study

# Thank You For Attending!



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