



May 13 — Worn...But Wrong

Co-workers was observed wearing a hard hat backwards.	They were corrected and turned it around
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The hard hat was on. That part was right. But it wasn't worn the way it was designed to be. Backwards.

It might not seem like a big deal. It still covers the head. It still feels like protection. But hard hats aren't just shells.

They're built with a suspension system that's designed to absorb impact in a specific direction. Flip it around, and that protection changes.

The way it distributes force. The way it stays in place. The way it protects when something hits. It might stay on. But it may not protect the way you think it will. Nothing fell. Nothing struck him.

But PPE isn't about reacting after something happens. It's about being set up correctly before it does. The fix was simple. Turn it around. Because wearing it isn't enough if it's not worn the right way.

Hazards

- Reduced impact protection
- Improper force distribution
- Hard hat displacement during impact
- False sense of security
- Line of fire exposure to overhead hazards

Stats

- Head injuries remain a leading cause of serious workplace incidents
- Improperly worn PPE reduces its effectiveness
- Many injuries occur when PPE is present but not used correctly
- Proper fit and orientation are critical to performance

Words of Wisdom

- Wearing it isn't the same as using it right
- PPE only works the way it was designed
- Small details change protection

Pause and Think

It's easy to think that having PPE on is enough.

It's there. It's visible.
It checks the box.

But protection isn't just about wearing it — it's about wearing it correctly. Because when something actually happens, there's no adjusting it in that moment.

It either works... or it doesn't.

- Am I wearing my PPE the way it was designed?
- Do I overlook small details because "it's still on"?
- Would I correct someone else — or ignore it?
- Am I relying on appearance instead of actual protection?