

Safety Focus - PPE

Background:

During a construction project, a number of workers were observed not wearing their helmets. The workers had been instructed on several occasions to wear their helmets as per site PPE requirements.

Event:

A couple of days later, an employee was struck on the helmet by a fence barrier that fell from the edge of a trench.



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Consequences:

The worker sustained soft tissue injuries to his neck and was hospitalised.

Key Messages:

- Although PPE is low on the hierarchy of controls, it's purpose is to reduce the impact of a hazard.
- Ensure you wear the appropriate PPE at all times.
- Ensure you Identify all hazards.
- Implement effective controls to prevent the hazard from reaching it's target "YOU".
- Remain situational aware – Do Not become complacent about hazards.

Note: The injured employee thanked his supervisor for being persistent in asking to wear helmets and said "if I did not have my helmet on I could have had a fractured skull" or worse.

