


 ISEASetting the
Standards
for Safety
Equipment

PROTECTION UPDATE'S SAFETY EQUIPMENT WORKS FOR YOU

By Joseph L. Walker
Editor, *Protection Update*

In November 2000, the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) began publication of a newsletter about personal protective equipment (PPE) for the heavy construction industry. *Protection Update* was part of the ISEA's Partnership for Worker Protection, a program to build awareness of the importance of safety equipment for road, bridge and tunnel workers.

The second issue of *Protection Update*, published in January 2001, carried the first "Safety Equipment Works for You" column of real-life stories about people whose lives were saved or who avoided serious injuries by using various types of safety equipment. Since then, all except one *Protection Update* have carried this feature, with most of the stories provided by ISEA member companies whose products did their job in saving lives or preventing injuries.

In this compilation you will find all of the "Safety Equipment Works for You" tales we have told through *Protection Update's* first 10 years. We hope that you not only will find these stories to be interesting, but that they also will serve as a valuable tool in your safety training toolbox.

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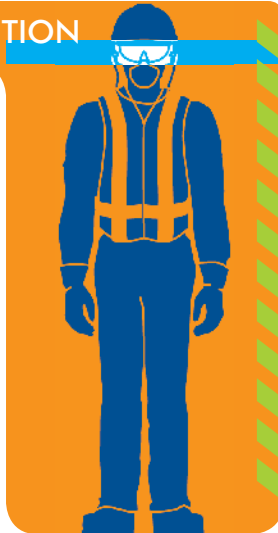


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● EYE/FACE PROTECTION

▶ Mary, who works for the Oklahoma Highway Department, was in a state truck when a passing tractor-trailer's mirror hit the one on her truck. Shattered glass burst into the cab of the state truck. But Mary was wearing safety glasses. While she was cut on the face and neck, Mary's glasses stayed in place. Her doctors said that her eyes were well protected and that she could have lost her eyesight if not wearing the safety glasses. (Protective eyewear by [H.L. Bouton Co.](#)).



▶ A contract employee with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was testing a high-pressure heater that had been repaired using brass plugs. As the pressure inside the heater built up, one of the plugs blew and with tremendous velocity struck the center of the left lens of the worker's safety glasses. The TVA had never had a repair plug blow as this one did. While the employee sustained injuries to the orbital area of the eye and to the nose from the incredibly dangerous impact, his eye was saved by the safety glasses. (Protective eyewear by [Sperian Protection](#))

▶ Charles was using a die grinder with a hard rubber wheel to smooth a piece of metal. Unexpectedly, the wheel broke apart, hurling a large chunk rubber at the surprised employee. The projectile crashed into

Charlie's face and bounced off his prescription safety glasses. The force of the impact knocked the glasses askew, but the frame remained intact and the lens had only minor scratches. After he saw an eye doctor, Charlie returned to finish the job. He did sport a black eye for several weeks, but his vision was saved. (Protective eyewear by [3M Company Occupational Health and Safety](#))

▶ Only two days after purchasing a pair of safety glasses because he liked the "design and mirror-blue" lenses, Bob was wearing the specs as he pulled a nail attached to a very taut string line. The nail shot straight toward his face, striking the glasses' left lens. "Thank God I had your safety glasses on because I would have lost my left eye," Bob reported. (Protective eyewear by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ Ha-Keem was working on a power plant project when the hose of an air-driven (100 psi) impact wrench broke free from a work area above him and whipped around wildly, slamming into his face. Ha-Keem was wearing protective eyewear, which took the brunt of the impact. While the glasses were bent — one stem being twisted about three inches above the other — his only injuries were some facial bruises and a slight headache. He took ibuprofen, and before finishing his shift donned a new pair of protective eyewear. (Protective eyewear by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ Jack was riding his motorcycle to work when a minivan made an unexpected left turn in front of him. Jack hit the side of the van's door with his bike, sustaining injuries to the left side of his body and face, including a broken nose. Glass flew when the van window shattered. "The only reason I can still see out of both eyes is because I had my safety glasses on," Jack said. "You saved my eyes and God saved my life." (Protective eyewear by [Sperian Protection](#).)

▶ As a hunter education instructor, James understands the importance of eye protection. He has three pairs of safety glasses, each with a different lens type for different applications. James' glasses have protected him while hunting, on the shooting range and around the home. He has impressed on his hunter education students the importance of wearing protective eyewear. (Protective eyewear by [ERB Industries](#))

▶ Leroy's truck was following a flatbed trailer loaded with lumber when a piece of wood fell from the trailer, hit the road and bounced, reports Jimmy Culpepper, assistant safety manager at the U.S. Navy Public Works Center in Norfolk, Va. It struck the windshield

of Leroy's vehicle and shattered the glass, which blew inward hitting him in the face. (Protective eyewear by [Sperian Protection](#))

► A safety equipment distributor donated a case of tinted safety glasses in response to a customer's request for prizes for a company picnic. Among the employees who received the specs was one whose job required him to install fluorescent lights. Fortunately, he was wearing the glasses when he contacted a Bus Duct (440). Doctors attribute the fact he still has eyesight to the safety glasses and the fact that he continuously rinsed his eyes until the ambulance arrived. His burned specs are on display at the company as a permanent reminder to wear protective gear. (Protective eyewear by [H. L. Bouton](#).)

► Doug Alvarez used safety glasses when he worked as a civilian with the City of Clearwater (Fla.) Public Utilities. When he was deployed to Iraq, where he served as a Navy Seabee, Alvarez took along his safety glasses — the same ones he normally wore at work. On May 2, 2004, shortly after Alvarez and his team began a mission, the unit came under mortar attack. The second mortar landed within his group, knocking Alvarez to the ground. He sustained multiple wounds, with shrapnel in his forehead, jaw, abdomen, right thigh, shin and ankle and in both knees. One toe on his right foot was shattered and two others were wounded. That day, his unit sustained 38 casualties, including five deaths. Alvarez was taken to Baghdad and then flown to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. After he returned home, Alvarez learned that one of his friends had recovered something from the mortar attack. Imagine his surprise when he opened a package containing his safety glasses. They had been blown from his face during the attack, and Alvarez was astonished to see why: they had stopped a large piece of shrapnel from penetrating his right eye. "When I saw those glasses for the first time, I felt lucky," Alvarez said. "I hope that no one is ever that near to a mortar attack again, but if they are I hope a pair of safety glasses will do for them what they did for me." Said Scott Oster, Alvarez' supervisor at Clearwater Public Utilities: "The only thing that saved his eye and probably a big shot to his head was the Good Lord and his safety glasses." (Protective eyewear by [MCR Safety](#))

► I am writing this letter to show how glad I am that my company uses your product. I work for Camrose Pipe Company in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, as a millwright. One day about a month ago I was working on a large hydraulic machine called the tester.

We had been having problems with the hydraulics creating too much pressure and blowing "O" rings, so as a millwright I had to replace the "O" rings. The first time I went to the machine I reached up and unbolted the plug without a problem — after following a safe lock-out procedure. However, the second time the "O" ring needed to be replaced I reached up to unbolt the plug and boom, the line blew with a minimum of 1,500 pounds per-square-inch hydraulic oil straight at my face. The pressure had so much force that it blew my hard hat off about 20 feet away and pushed me backward about five feet against a set of stairs. During the accident, I did get some oil in my eyes, but it was because I was covered in oil and it ran down my face. At no time did my safety glasses come off. Those glasses took the full force of the explosion; without them on I would be blind, no question. I am a 44-year-old grandfather with five grandchildren and two on the way. By using your product I will still be able to watch them grow up. Thank you and Merry Christmas. — Sincerely yours, Wayne Charles Massick. (Protective eyewear by [Honeywell Safety Products](#))

► Mine Safety Appliances Co. employee Kelly Rollick was driving to work at MSA's Cranberry Township, Pa., facility when a deer leapt into the path of his car and went through the windshield, landing in the front passenger seat. Shattered glass flew everywhere, showering Rollick's head and face. Fortunately, he was using a pair of safety glasses as sunglasses when the accident occurred. "The only thing that kept me from being blinded by the shower of glass shards that filled the car when the deer came through the windshield was my tinted safety glasses," Rollick said. "They worked great. I just had a few small glass shards in my hands and chin, and inside my shirt. That's why I know the glasses saved me. The four troopers, two tow-truck drivers and construction boss all said the same thing." (Protective eyewear by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► Michael Thompson, an electrical and instrumentation technical, was installing fuses on a printing press at a plant that turned out beer cartons in West Monroe, La., when someone threw a switch, turning on the equipment. Unfortunately, the press did not have proper disconnect of lockout devices, Thompson said. The equipment activation caused an arc flash and subsequent explosion from vaporizing copper. Thankfully, Thompson was wearing safety glasses that kept the molten copper splatter, fuse filler and other debris from getting into his eyes — thus saving his sight and very possibly his life. "Even though I was burned severely and suffered a collapsed lung, I was only

temporarily blinded by the arc flash,” he said. “I know technicians are usually the worst culprits of removing their safety glasses when entering a motor control center or working in electrical or control panels. They use excuses like they can’t see what they’re doing because the glasses fog up or sweat has run across the lenses. Well, if my experience could help them to realize the importance of wearing safety glasses no matter what, then I would like to share it.” (Protective eyewear by [MCR Safety](#))

► Keith Dennis typically wore non-ANSI-compliant, fashion sunglasses while working for his Sarasota, Fla., landscaping company. His neighbor — a safety supervisor for Sarasota County — knew what type of work Dennis did and gave him a pair of trendy, comfortable safety glasses to try out. Dennis liked the fit and appearance of the new specs as well as the tinted lenses he had been wearing. Thankfully, Dennis had donned the safety eyewear before he used a string trimmer along a bank of concrete parking barriers early this year. As he trimmed, the string picked up a screw resting at the bottom of one of the barriers and hurled it into his face. The force was so powerful that it knocked Keith off balance. Initially, he didn’t realize what has happened. But once he regained his composure, Dennis removed his safety eyewear and found the screw tip embedded like an arrow point in the left lens; it had been stopped by the impact-resistant polycarbonate. Chances are that had Dennis not been wearing safety specs he would have lost an eye — and possibly worse. (Protective eyewear by [Sperian Protection](#))

► On Sept. 30, 2008, Todd Adams of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, wrote to Sellstrom Manufacturing Co.: I would just like to say thank you to your company for your face shield. Four weeks ago, I had an accident in my shop in which a piece I was working on exploded and hit me in the face. The piece had enough force to penetrate the 1/2-inch drywall above my head. I also was wearing eye protection and a dust mask. Although I did have to get several stitches inside and out of my mouth, the injury was relatively minor compared to what could have happened... Again, I would like to thank your company for building a good quality product. — Thanks and have a great day, Todd Adams. On the same day, Sellstrom President David Peters replied: Wow! I’m glad you are OK... I am forwarding your story to our customer service manager to help you pick out a new face shield with our compliments. We would also like to reinforce the importance of wearing a pair of ANSI-compliant safety glasses, as you were doing, whenever you use a face shield. We will send

you a variety of our newest styles for your use, as well... We at Sellstrom are glad that we were able to help during your accident. (Face shield by [Sellstrom Manufacturing Co.](#))

► It was the first day of fire school at Texas A&M University. Before the first burn of the morning a fire instructor had told the students: “No solid streams! Straight is OK if you need the reach, but break it up a little. Solid streams take people’s heads off!” Five minutes later, he noticed one of the students shooting a solid stream of water — a one-and-a-half-inch bore running 150 pounds per square inch at 150 gallons per minute — and moved to address the dangerous situation. Another instructor was giving different instructions to other students and confusion ensued. At one point, the rookie shooting the solid stream turned his head to shout “Straighten the hose,” and turned his entire body, including the high-powered stream directly into his instructor’s cheek and left eye. “My eye swelled shut for several days,” the instructor recalled. “When it opened, it was like looking through a bottle of cloudy yellow water for a few weeks. It finally healed after several trips to the eye doc and a few months of misery. High-velocity water streams can kill you. My brain wouldn’t have had a chance without those Smith & Wesson (safety spectacles). No doubt your safety glasses have saved countless eyes... Thanks for providing a product that works as advertised.” (Protective eyewear by [Kimberly-Clark Professional](#))

► John Burnham recently received MCR Safety’s “Quality of Life” award after he was involved in an accident that resulted in him being struck in the face with a chainsaw blade. “On Saturday, June 6, 2009, I was getting ready to cut wood,” Burnham wrote to the company. “I had my chainsaw warming up for about 30 to 45 seconds when I squeezed the throttle trigger to bring the idle down. The chain snapped and struck me in the face. “Thank the Lord I didn’t need stitches and I’m thankful I was wearing the glasses... While I did receive abrasions on my face and had a slight concussion, I still have my eyesight and will be OK. When I called earlier, I was just thanking you for a quality product you have and I would recommend these glasses to anyone or any company.” (Protective eyewear by [MCR Safety](#))

► Waste Management roll-off driver Tommy Adams was attempting to swap out a compactor box at the Glenwood Regional Medical Center in West Monroe, La., when a fitting broke loose and shot hydraulic fluid into his face. “[H]e was wearing a new pair of safety glasses he had just received,” reported Randy Kimbrell,

district operations manager for Waste Management of Monroe. "I have to admit, I thought at first they were a little pricy... But if our workers will wear them, it's money well spent." (Protective eyewear by [Kimberly-Clark Professional](#))

▶ Electrician Robert Greene found himself with an uncomfortable choice. He could either install a new 200-amp 480/277-volt switch on a hot bus bar that was supposed to have been de-energized, or disappoint a valued customer. "Well, nobody wants to disappoint a customer," Greene wrote to MCR Safety. "So I put on my long-sleeve coat, safety glasses and hot gloves" and went to work, using a battery-powered drill to remove screws from the hot bus bar. Little did Greene realize that the chuck of his drill was not insulated from the drill body, meaning the hot screws he was removing were electrically connected to the chuck and drill body. "Everything was fine until the drill got close to the grounded metal enclosure," Greene said. "At that point things happened very fast. When...the drill shorted out right in front of my face, the first thing I noticed was everything turned white, like when the nuclear bomb goes off in the movies. I pushed away from the switch gear and lied (sic) down on the floor." As a co-worker doused Greene's burning hair, he thought he had been blinded. But quickly he realized that while his safety glasses were damaged, his eyes were OK. "The next week I was at another electrical contractor's office...and I told him I was lucky I was wearing my safety gear," Greene said. "He told me...it wasn't luck because I always wear my safety gear, even when it's hot and uncomfortable... Always wear your safety glasses." (Protective eyewear by [MCR Safety](#))

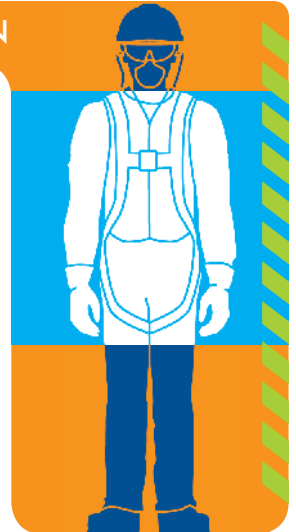
▶ Robert Moctezuma, a service technician for a large climate control provider, was completing a maintenance check of an HVAC system in Houston. While measuring the Freon levels in a condenser unit, Moctezuma immediately realized something was wrong. His pressure gauge read 325 pounds per square inch, which was significantly higher than normal. At that moment a hose leading to his gauge burst, sending Freon, dirt and screw-containing debris flying everywhere, including into Moctezuma's face. "At first I didn't even realize what had happened," Moctezuma told Gateway Safety. "I just wanted to get the Freon leak stopped. That's when I noticed something strange in my field of vision." He found a screw embedded point-first in the lens, with no metal reaching his eye. "I'm surprised it held," Moctezuma said. "Three hundred twenty-five pounds is a lot of pressure. I'm not sure that many glasses would have held." (Protective eyewear by [Gateway Safety](#))

▶ While working on a scissors lift, construction worker Phil wore both a hard hat and protective eyewear. He was demolishing a temporary wall when a large piece of overhead ductwork fell, striking him on the head, knocking him to the floor, and gouging his safety glasses. A medical examination revealed no injury greater than a stiff neck. (Excerpted from *Compliance Magazine*, September 2003.)

▶ Protective eyewear saved the sight and, possibly, the life of a construction worker at the Southwest Florida International Airport's new Midfield Terminal, *Contractor Tools & Supplies* magazine Editor Clair Urbain reported. The specs prevented his eye from being impaled by a piece of rebar. "It's hard to imagine a thin, clear piece of plastic stood between one man and blindness or, even worse, death," Urbain wrote. "He continues to work in construction and...relies heavily on his sense of sight. You can bet he will consistently wear safety glasses, knowing they saved him from harm."

FALL PROTECTION

▶ Ready to repair a barrel roof with a steep slope, Rogelio donned his stretchable full-body harness and tied off to a roof anchor system that included a four-point mounting assembly with a rope grab, lifeline and shock-absorbing lanyard. Rogelio stepped on a board that slipped out of place, and he lost his footing. He fell and slid off the edge of the roof, but his fall protection arrested the descent. Fellow employees grabbed his deployed lanyard and assisted Rogelio up onto the roof — uninjured. (Fall protection by [Sperian Protection](#))



▶ It was windy as David tried to climb down after attaching insulating blankets to vertical Peri Concrete Forms on a bridge. As he descended from 25 feet through the gusts, David lost his footing, slipped and fell. Fortunately, he was wearing a fall-protection harness attached to a six-foot lanyard, properly tied off. The gear arrested his fall. David climbed back up the ladder, unhooked his lanyard and climbed down to safety — unhurt. (Fall protection by [Sperian Protection](#))

- ▶ Jeff was working on a leading edge concrete deck 35 feet above ground when he lost his balance and fell. His full-body harness and self-retracting lifeline arrested the fall, preventing injury and eliminating the possibility of catastrophe. Jeff insisted on returning to full duty the next day. (Fall protection by [Sperian Protection](#))
- ▶ Ken was part of a four-man crew removing old gypsum decking at a concrete manufacturing plant. As they took out a panel and ball-beam supports, Ken stepped on a rusted support and fell through the roof. His fall protection locked immediately, arresting his fall. A co-worker assisted Ken back onto the roof shaken, but unharmed. (Fall protection by [Sperian Protection](#))
- ▶ The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to provide prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall or assure that employees are able to rescue themselves. Good fall protection plans include “what-if” scenarios, and have fall protection, rescue and self-rescue equipment to fulfill those scenarios. In rural Iowa, a wind turbine maintenance worker’s leg was crushed when the turbine shifted during routine maintenance. The worker was trapped nearly 300 feet in the air when his co-workers requested medical aid and began extricating him. Without the proper fall protection, including harnesses with front and back D-rings, the rescuers would not have been able to reach the worker. Their equipment, kept on hand for “what-if” situations, enabled them to get into position, attach the worker to a self-evacuation system and lower him to the ground even before paramedics arrived. (Fall protection by [Capital Safety](#))
- ▶ [On] September 30, 2008, at 10:45 a.m., one of our employees, Scott, was working on a truss at the new Dallas Cowboy Stadium jobsite [in Arlington, Texas]. He was wearing an Elk River harness, which has 3 D-rings with a seat and belt on it; in addition he was wearing Elk River single lanyards. These items and his hard hat saved his life... What happened is: While working on top of the truss he got hit in the head with a large clamp that slipped off a brace, which knocked him off the beam unconscious, and he was hanging in the air under the truss. The other Ironworkers pulled him up once they got to him, and he was taken to the hospital for an injury to his head. If he wasn’t tied off and wearing his personal protection equipment, he would have fallen over 40 feet down to the ground. Again we would like to thank you for your products and the care you put into designing and manufacturing great reliable harnesses. — Sincerely, Derr Steel Erection Co., Arlington, Texas (Fall protection by [Elk River Manufacturing Co.](#))
- ▶ A painter was thankful to be alive after the second scaffolding collapse within eight months at the Ambassador Bridge left him dangling in his safety harness high above the harbor line of the Detroit River, which forms the border between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Ontario officials at the accident said suspension points on the scaffold failed, causing it to dangle vertically. The bridge’s road surface is 135 feet above the harbor line, and the accident occurred high above the roadway, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. Earlier, a similar accident on the bridge took the life of a Windsor man who was involved in the same repainting project on the span.
- ▶ In New York City, two construction workers thanked their lucky stars for fall protection as they dangled 10 stories above the ground after a passing truck snagged a rope, toppling the scaffold that supported them, according to *New York Newsday*. The accident occurred as the workers were trying to lower the scaffold while installing a fire escape on a building in lower Manhattan. Fire officials reported that the truck driver ignored warnings to wait while the scaffold was lowered and plowed through the scene, *Newsday* said. It took rescuers about 10 minutes to pull the workers to safety.
- ▶ Fall protection saved the life of a building maintenance man suspended in his harness six stories above the ground after a scaffold gave way in Houston. The *Houston Chronicle* reported that onlookers held their breath as firefighters rescued the man in his safety harness and another worker, who stood on the edge of the collapsed scaffold clutching his lifeline. A ladder truck was used to rescue the free-hanging workman. Meanwhile, a lone firefighter rappelled down the 12-story building to hook the second worker into a stronger harness so that he could be pulled up to safety, according to the *Chronicle*.
- ▶ Jerald was working on an Ohio bridge project, throwing lumber from pan decking to the ground 25 feet below when a nail sticking out of the one of the pieces of wood caught his glove. Jerald lost his balance and fell from the decking. Fortunately, he was wearing his harness, and his lanyard was tied to a secure anchor point. Jerald was caught three feet below the decking. Three co-workers used a ladder

to help him down, uninjured. “The proper use of fall protection saved him from a serious injury and possibly saved his life,” said Mark Potnick of the Ohio Contractors Association, who reported the story.

- ▶ The U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) Peoria (Ill.) Office — and a company that “got the message” — can take credit for saving the life of a highway worker near Pesorum, Ill. A Champaign, Ill.-based contractor was cited for lack of fall protection on an overpass. Less than one month later, a worker fell through a false deck on the bottom of a bridge at the same site, but was saved from a 21-foot drop to the pavement below because he was wearing fall arrest in line with the company’s new fall protection program, OSHA reported.
- ▶ David Torres and Dennis Avilias, two employees at a Texas company, were working on a Galveston water tower 45 feet above the ground when one of the motors holding their scaffold failed and the left side dropped several feet, reported the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council’s *Executive Safety Update*. If not for fall protection, required by their employer, the men could have plunged to their deaths. “We have even fired employees when we caught them not wearing it,” said a company principal.
- ▶ Robert was working atop a bridge in downtown Milwaukee, walking along a 2-by-6-inch double girder, when he lost his balance and fell, reports *Contractor Tools and Supplies* magazine. “It happened so fast I couldn’t react,” he said. “The first thing I thought was ‘sh__!’, and the retractable web lanyard already had caught me...There I was, hanging 30 feet over the railroad tracks. I was glad I tied off.”
- ▶ Fall protection saved the life of a window washer at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington after the line suspending him 60 feet off the ground snapped, *The Washington Post* reported. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services crews brought him to safety, uninjured, about a half hour after the incident. The Rayburn building, across the street from the U.S. Capitol, houses offices of House of Representatives members.
- ▶ The day was hot as ironworker Todd laid and set metal decking about 14 feet off the ground for the ceiling of a church in Winona, Minn.; perspiration kept building up on his safety glasses. He tied his fall protection off to a cable attached to the building columns. With his vision blurred, Todd accidentally stepped off the edge of the structure, descending “like a dart” before the lanyard caught him several feet above the floor, *Contractor Tools & Supplies* magazine reported. Another worker positioned a stepladder so that Todd could climb down — shaky and with a bloody nose, but alive.
- ▶ A truck driver was sweeping lime off the top of his bulk transit trailer at a mine in Black River, Ky., when his left ankle buckled, causing him to lose balance and fall over the side of the tank trailer, head first toward the ground below. But this wise worker did not lose his life because he was using a fall protection harness and nylon lanyard, which was attached to an overhead arresting system, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Several minutes later he was found by a miner and brought back up to the top of the trailer and, eventually, lowered to ground level. Further investigation revealed that the truck driver weighed in excess of 425 pounds, and was wearing his own harness when force was exerted, MSHA said. Three hundred ten pounds (including tooling, clothing and other protective apparel or equipment) is the maximum weight rating for standard fall protection. However, options are available through ISEA member companies to provide compliant fall-arrest products for individuals weighing more than 310 pounds, including full-body harnesses, shock-absorbing lanyards and self-retracting lifelines. These products are labeled to reflect the increased weight rating.
- ▶ In case there are any lingering doubts about the wisdom of using fall protection, you might want to ask two construction workers from Michigan-based National Riggers and Erectors who were working on the renovation of Lambeau Field, legendary home (“frozen tundra”) of the Green Bay Packers. One worker slipped from a steel beam six stories above ground, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Thanks to his use of full fall protection, serious injury — and very likely death — was avoided. The worker returned to the job shortly after his rescue. Less than two months later, a second worker slipped from a beam, but also escaped injury because of his fall protection. Like his predecessor, he returned to work the same day. OSHA had a partnership with Turner Construction, the Lambeau Field general contractor, which required 100 percent use of fall protection above six feet. Strict adherence to that requirement saved two lives, OSHA said.
- ▶ Two workers at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center (KSC) are alive thanks to their safety equipment, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Central Florida News 13

reported. The workers fell from a platform inside the Vehicle Assembly Building, where the space shuttle Discovery was being prepared for its next mission. NASA said the workers were wearing safety equipment that stopped them from falling to the ground. KSC officials said it was a close call and that they are reviewing safety procedures with the contractor, according to the Central Florida News 13 account.

▶ Fall protection probably saved the lives of two window washers at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich., when their basket-type lift tipped over and crashed to the pavement below, the *Muskegon Chronicle* reported. The employees of Award Window Cleaning Services were washing upper windows when the accident occurred. Both men had non-life-threatening injuries. Officials said they were not sure what caused the basket to fall, but said the safety equipment the men wore — harnesses that attached them to the basket — probably saved them from more serious injuries, the newspaper reported.

● HAND PROTECTION

▶ “On January 4, 2010, I was unloading snow plow blades when a bundle slipped and dropped on my right hand,” recounted warehouseman George Kingsley in a note to MCR Safety. “The blades weight 60 pounds each, and there are 10 in a bundle. “When the glove was cut off, the doctor was amazed the fingers were still attached and there were not any broken bones. They said the gloves took most of the damage. I will continue to use your product for years to come. “We sometimes take our hands for granted,” Kingsley said. “That is until something like this occurs. As it is, I still have the use of all my fingers and will have full use of that hand within a few weeks. Again, thank you and your staff for a superior product.” For wearing the company’s gloves in a situation that could have cost him the use of his right hand, Kingsley was honored with the “MCR Safety Quality of Life Award.” (Protective gloves by MCR Safety, www.mcrcsafety.com)



● HEAD PROTECTION

▶ Vern, an employee of a Troy, N.Y., construction company, was sweeping debris from a road construction project when the side-view mirror of a passing truck struck him on the head. Vern was wearing a hard hat. “The doctor at the emergency room said the hard hat, which split in two, took the impact and saved Vern’s life,” reported the company’s safety director. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))



▶ A highway worker was securing a load of poles, tightening the load binder when the chain broke, releasing the bar that hit him squarely on the head. Fortunately, he was wearing a hard hat, which absorbed the impact and cracked down the center. “The worker’s neck took some of the shock, but not the potentially deadly blow he would have received to the unprotected skull,” wrote the worker’s training and safety administrator. (Hard hat by [Bullard](#))

▶ An overhead crane worker was struck on the head by a 25-pound trolley controller as he worked on a Virginia Power project. The controller fell 10 feet before hitting the worker, but his hard hat protected him from a serious injury even though the impact far exceeded the hat’s design capacity. A few stitches were all that was needed to get the worker back on the job. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ A 12-foot piece of three-inch metal pipe weighing 100 pounds fell from a poll, striking a worker on the head. The worker, who was on the ground with his back to the pole, was dazed and sustained a laceration on the neck and bruises to the body from being knocked down. “If not wearing a hard hat, the injuries could have been fatal,” wrote his safety director. (Hard hat by Bullard, www.bullard.com)

▶ John was at work when a 35-pound bucket of nails fell from 10 feet above and hit him on the head. Fortunately, John was wearing a hard hat. John escaped with only a sprained back. Had he not been wearing the helmet, who knows what injuries he might have suffered?

- ▶ Louise was working at her Rhode Island construction site when she was struck by a piece of iron scaffolding that had fallen 36 feet. It smashed into her hard hat, knocked her to the ground, fractured her temple and sinus bones, and crushed the bone around her right eye. The blow exceeded the helmet's design limits, but miraculously it did not even knock her out. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ Jim was working at a construction site when an 8-by-8-by-16-inch concrete block fell 12 feet from an overhead scaffold. The block struck his head and right arm and he was knocked to the ground. Although dizzy and bruised, he returned to work the same day. If not wearing his hard hat, he most likely would have been killed. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ Ray was working under a conveyor belt that was carrying loose rock to a crusher. The machinery stopped abruptly, and a rock weighing approximately 40 pounds slipped off the belt. Ray was hit on the head by the falling rock. His hard hat was cracked by the impact of the rock, but Ray was saved from a serious head injury. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ Darryl was wearing his protective helmet as he operated a large piece of equipment in an underground shaft. Looking up, he noticed a small crack in the roof 11 feet above. As he scaled down the machinery, a large section of overhead material broke loose and fell. Darryl was knocked to the ground. While he had cuts, scrapes and bruises, his hard hat prevented much more serious head injuries from the falling debris. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ A worker was using a pry bar to remove a row of refractory brick from inside a cement kiln when he lost his footing, causing him to tumble into the path of a 20-pound brick falling from 15 feet above. The brick glanced off the front of the worker's hard hat, which saved him from serious injury or death. (Hard hat by [Bullard](#))
- ▶ Paul was wearing his full-brim hard hat when he fell into a plumbing trench with no safety railing and valves protruding from the sides. As he fell, he could hear his helmet scraping the trench wall. The day after the accident, Paul wrote: "First of all, I want to say a big thank you. I am a sore, but happy camper, and my head is in one piece." (Hard hat by [ERB Industries](#))
- ▶ Buddy was performing service work on a utility pole when a piece of equipment fell from overhead. While the falling material did strike him in the head, Buddy's hard hat saved him from serious injury. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ Eric, a ventilation installation supervisor, fell about three meters onto the steel deck of an offshore accommodation platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Although he suffered some fairly serious injuries — fractured sternum, neck injury, and stitches to the back of the head — he credited his hard hat for staying in position during the fall and "saving his neck," even though the helmet was not meant to provide fall protection for the head. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ I'm writing this letter to inform you that your hard hat, Type 1, Class E, certified model ANSI Z-89.1-1997, saved my life. I...was working in a boiler for Maine Energy on the grates, which is on the first floor, when someone on the fifth floor dropped a 25-pound, eight-foot tube shield 60 to 65 feet, which hit me square on top of the head, directly in the middle of the hard hat. The force sent me to the grates, knocking me unconscious for five to 10 minutes. I was taken to the hospital where a CT scan of my head was done and X-rays of my neck. Everything showed to be OK except sore muscles and headache for a few weeks. If hit inches either way I surely would have been killed. My wife, my three young children, and I thank you for saving my life. I sure do appreciate the making of this hard hat. Again, thanks for saving my life. — Very appreciative, Kevin Burgess, Rockville, R.I. (Hard hat by [Honeywell Safety Products](#))
- ▶ Kenneth was working on the floor when a man 75 feet above him dropped a 12-inch crescent wrench, striking Kenneth on his head above the eyebrow. At the time of the accident, Kenneth was wearing a full-brim hard hat and a pair of safety glasses. These two pieces of equipment came between him and a potentially fatal blow. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ Darryl was trying to bull-rig a motor control center module that was positioned on concrete piers. A wire-rope choker that connected a 10-ton come-along to one of the piers broke loose and freed the come-along, which swung around the pier, striking Darryl in the head. His hard hat deflected the force of the impact and undoubtedly saved him from serious injury. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))
- ▶ The young firefighter lay in his hospital bed, recovering from a concussion that he suffered while on the job. His doctor looked at his damaged fire helmet, which was hanging on his intravenous stand, and

said, “You’re here because of your helmet.” The full-time firefighter and his partner were pulling down ceilings in a building when a large piece of the ceiling came down on him. He had the helmet’s chin-strap on, and the helmet stayed on his head. (Fire helmet by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ The bald eagle may be our national emblem and a soaring symbol of American pride, but in Homer, a fishing town on the south-central coast of Alaska, they are almost as common as pigeons are in much of the “Lower 48.” Every winter, hundreds of eagles gorge themselves on fishing scraps at the docks on Homer Spit, which juts out more than four miles into scenic Kachemak Bay. During the last week in March (2005), Kurt Marquardt, who works for Steiner’s North Star Construction of Homer, was on a crew building a 15,000-square-foot addition to the Land’s End Resort at the tip of Homer Spit. Marquardt was standing on the third-floor joists about 30 feet above the beach when a bald eagle swooped out of the sky and smacked into his head and then his forearm. Bald eagles are huge birds — weighing up to 12 pounds with wingspans of up to seven feet — and they are equipped with talons that can rip human flesh or carry off small dogs or cats. “I was probably in the eagle’s flight path,” Marquardt told *Protection Update*. “I didn’t see it coming at me, but there were probably two dozen circling in the immediate area. At first, I didn’t know what hit me. I thought someone possibly dropped a board on me. I managed to stay on my feet. Then I saw the eagle falling between the floor joists, and bouncing off the second floor deck. “I assumed the eagle was a goner, but it proceeded to flap its way down 100 feet of hallway and fly off at the stairwell opening. My arm felt sore and I checked it for injury, but I sustained only a bruise.” And thanks to his hard hat, Marquardt suffered no head injuries; the eagle gouged the hat, but not his head. In fact, the hard hat remains in usable condition. “I’m glad I was wearing it,” said the savvy construction worker. (Hard hat by [Bullard](#))

▶ I want to inform you that your product, the fiberglass hard hat, saved my son’s life. He fell through a sub-floor at a construction site and landed on his head. His hat stayed on and without that protection, the neurosurgeon said he would have died. My son, Tony Trujillo, was found unconscious and not breathing. He spent a week in the hospital with a concussion and skull and facial fractures. There was some bleeding on the brain and swelling, but NO permanent damage. Thanks to your product, after a month and a half, Tony returned to work and has no further head problems. I just wanted to let you know that

you make an outstanding product. The hard hat did crack and pinch his skin, but it saved his life. Due to the cost of the hat, he has not been able to replace it as yet, but that will be one of his first purchases. Thanks to your great effort to make a superb product, he is alive, and I am very grateful to all of you. — A very happy mom, Barbara Berard, Spearfish, S.D. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#) MSA sent Mr. Trujillo a new replacement helmet and a “Gold Helmet Award,” which the company confers on workers whose lives are saved by MSA helmets or any competitive helmets.)

▶ If veteran firefighter Matt Blankenship’s helmet had remained on his lap, his ride of a lifetime could have been his last. An emergency rescue call came into the Ashland (Va.) Volunteer Fire Co. station around 10:30 p.m. concerning a “car in the woods” off of I-95 in Hanover County, Va. “I was assigned to the heavy rescue extrication unit,” Blankenship said. “We followed the primary fire engine to the scene and pulled over on the shoulder behind it.” Blankenship was seated on the passenger side, seatbelt buckled and wearing his fire helmet that he donned only a minute before his vehicle came to a stop. A fully loaded lumber truck following the firefighters did not stop, plowing into their vehicle at 65 to 70 miles an hour. “Our truck ricocheted off the fire engine,” Blankenship said. “The front end lifted up and we flipped over, landing on the rear passenger side. My helmet and right shoulder were outside the truck and went sliding along the pavement for about 150 feet.” When the rescue truck stopped, the firefighter’s helmet was intact and his head unharmed. Parts of the helmet were worn away, and glass shards were embedded in it, but his head didn’t have “a scratch on it,” Blankenship recalled. Other injuries from the mishap have kept him from responding to volunteer calls. But he remains active in other aspects of the Ashland fire company. (Fire helmet by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ Responding to a three-alarm house fire, Nashua, N.H., firefighters Tim Soucy and Steve Cote were climbing a ladder to a third-story window to remove a 70-pound air-conditioning unit when it fell 22 feet on top of them. “It couldn’t have landed any more dead center on top of (Soucy’s) head if he had had a bulls-eye painted on his helmet,” Nashua Assistant Fire Chief Mike Mansfield said. “I thought he was dead.” The blow knocked Soucy off the fourth rung of the ladder and he fell to the ground, unconscious. After it bounced off of Soucy’s head, the air conditioner then hit Cote’s head, also knocking him down. Both men were treated at a local hospital and released. Soucy suffered several fractured teeth, but

had no serious neurological damage from the accident. Cote suffered neck pain. “There is only so much a helmet can do for compression injuries,” Mansfield said. “I can’t believe (Soucy) doesn’t have any neck or spinal injuries. Tim is truly lucky to be alive. The (helmet) did its job. It took the force of the hit and literally saved his life. I’ve never seen anything like it in my 40 years of service...” (Fire helmets by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► An employee at a building materials plant was bending over to pick up an object as a forklift passed him. The forklift ran over the edge of a piece of wood packing material. Ejected from the side of the tire, the material became a missile that struck the worker on the side of the head. His hard hat took the full brunt of the impact. The employee was not hurt, although the blow caused a four-inch-wide, three-inch-high and three-quarter-inch deep dent in the hard hat shell; the projectile did not touch his head. There were no obvious overhead hazards in the workplace, so wearing head protection might have seemed unnecessary. Fortunately, this “saved” worker was both well trained and lucky. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► Imagine receiving 2,000 volts of electricity to your head without feeling a thing! That is what happened to Butts County, Ga., firefighter Lt. Robert Ridgeway. He and firefighter/paramedic Scot Thomas, wearing full gear, had entered a burning structure. Although the fire was mostly knocked down, a few hot spots remained and smoke still filled the air. No one knew if the building’s electrical power had been shut off, and multiple electrical wires hung in the space. Thomas started to pull the ceiling down. As he cleared the ceiling, Thomas thought he saw the flash of an electric arc, but Ridgeway didn’t see or feel anything. After returning to the station, however, the pair found flaking paint and two burned spots on Ridgeway’s helmet. The burn did not appear to penetrate the helmet, and except for a larger burn line around its inner shell, the rest of the helmet was undamaged. “I’ve never seen anything like it,” Fire Chief Dave Newberry said. “The helmet is clean except for the burn marks.” (Fire helmet by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► Keith was opening a job box when he was struck on the head by a 30-foot, wide body tape measure that fell from 60 feet above. (Hard hat by Mine Safety Appliances Co., [www.msanet.com](#)) Editor’s note: Keith received a Gold Helmet Award from MSA for using his head for more than a hat rack.

► With heavy fire coming through the roof of a structural fire in Greenock, Pa., a father-and-son volun-

teer fire chief and assistant chief assessed the scene and began removing propane tanks and a gas grill from a porch to prevent further fire risk. Suddenly and without warning, the porch roof collapsed on Bob Greenwald and his son, Jason, pinning them underneath the debris. The elder Greenwald could free himself, but Jason was trapped by the weight of the porch until several firefighters pushed off the rubble. “My helmet kept the pressure off my head,” said the younger Greenwald, who suffered no head injuries. “It did what it was supposed to do.” His father’s helmet cracked on the brim from the force of the collapse, but he sustained no head injuries. Both men believe that wearing their helmets with chinstraps saved them from serious injury. While it is common practice for firefighters not to wear their chinstraps, these men say their helmets stayed in place and did not dislodge during the incident, thanks to their chinstraps — a good tip to pass on. (Fire helmets by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► Think wearing a hard hat is optional? Think again. Every year, hundreds of workers lives are saved simply by donning their protective helmets. Just ask Ryan DeVolder, who credits his with protecting him from serious injury and possible death. Ryan was installing steel clips for a downtown San Francisco window system while a crew above him was stripping concrete without a safety net. Suddenly, a 10-pound chunk of concrete broke loose and fell six stories directly onto Ryan’s head. The 600 pounds of driving force smashed his face into the building, shattered his cheekbone, fractured his skull, and crushed several teeth. Yet despite the tremendous impact, Ryan never lost consciousness. “The building is right on the sidewalk,” he recalled. “[The concrete] could have hit someone walking — and if they weren’t wearing a hard hat, it would have taken them out for sure.” Ryan is alive today thanks to a very smart, yet simple act — putting on his hard hat. (Hard hat by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

► Guillermo Balboa, an experienced technician with a Fort Worth area maintenance crew, was preparing to clean up sand and salt used during icy conditions on I-280. Because his “shoulder broom” had an open cab, Guillermo donned a reflective vest and hard hat before settling behind the controls. As he began working, a car swerved around a trailing shield vehicle into the broom, spinning it violently. Guillermo’s head hit a metal pipe on the sweeper, cracking his helmet open. Stunned, he unbuckled his safety belt and lurched to the ground, where he collapsed — shaken and jolted but with no visible injuries. Guillermo was thankful that he followed

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) rules requiring employees operating open-cab equipment to wear hard hats. (Thanks to Michael Peters of TxDOT's Fort Worth District for sharing this story about a very smart worker.)

▶ Hard hats are not necessarily designed to absorb a blow to the front of the head during a fall. But for one power-plant mechanic who fell more than 20 feet from an unprotected ledge at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers powerhouse in Dardanelle, Ark., the helmet probably saved his life. Richard Duck was part of a team trying to find a leaky pipe in a turbine pit when he bumped his hard hat-protected head against an overhead obstruction, according to the [All About Head Protection](#) Web site. The blow caused him to lose his balance. Duck fell off the ledge and landed 20 feet below. During the fall, his hard hat stayed on long enough to protect his head when it struck something on the way down. He received a gash on the forehead, and the helmet shattered. "The hard hat saved his life," said an industrial hygienist with the Little Rock District Corps safety office. "The hard hat, held on momentarily by earmuffs, took the force of the blow before it shattered." The Little Rock District took immediate steps to abate the lack of fall protection that resulted in the accident in the first place.

▶ Richard was helping position a prefabricated wall panel when the crane carrying the panel hit a steel beam that had not been tacked into place, *Compliance Magazine* reported. Knocked loose, the beam swung and struck Richard's head and shoulder, injuring both his shoulder and arm. Spared head injuries, Richard was told that he would have been killed had he not been wearing his hard hat. The next day, he was back at work.

▶ Les was working on a pile-driving site when he was hit on his helmeted head by a 65-pound chunk of mud and concrete. Although he received 14 stitches in his scalp and his hard hat was destroyed, Les probably would have been killed had he not been wearing head protection.

● HIGH-VISIBILITY APPAREL

▶ Walter was called upon to deliver fuel to an out-of-gas motorist stranded along an unlighted, busy highway at night. As he attempted to gas up the car, Walter felt the "whoosh" of traffic on his back and jumped clear. Then he remembered he had a retro-reflective ball cap in the trunk of his car. Donning the cap, he returned to his task. In Walter's words, "The still-busy traffic immediately gave me a wide berth. It was amazing. They didn't know what it was, but it was clear drivers were now aware of me and moved over."



▶ Patrick and Maxie comprise a team that keeps Chicago streets clean by picking up litter and hand sweeping with brooms. Recently, the city equipped them with new high-visibility garments. They report that drivers seem to see them sooner and keep their vehicles farther away than before. They also said that while they usually work some distance apart, they can often make out their partners' high-visibility garments and, therefore, feel less isolated on the streets.

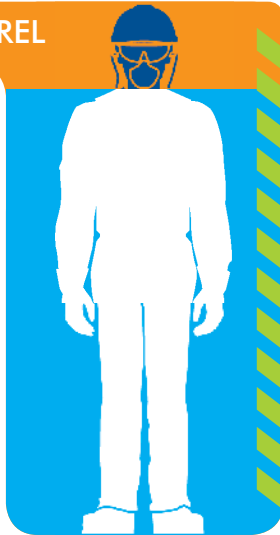
▶ Stephanie of suburban Washington runs in the morning before work, and during the winter months it's pitch dark, she told the *Washington Post*. Nearly every day, a man wearing a lime-green shirt and driving an old car honked and waved as he passed her by. During Stephanie's first pre-dawn run this year, the man again honked as he passed, but then slowed to a stop. At first, she panicked. It was dark and she was on a street without houses that backs up to a park. "Should I hightail it into the woods?," she thought. She slowed to a walk and kept a cautious distance as she neared the car. The man in the car rolled down the window and said: "Hi, My name is Earl, and I work for the State Highway Administration. I've got something for you." He handed Stephanie a bright orange and yellow safety vest like the ones construction workers wear for visibility when they are repairing roadways, the *Post* reported. "This will keep you safe," he said. Stephanie thanked him and put on the vest as Earl drove off with a wave. Minutes later she was running on a sidewalk along a busy road approaching a particularly dangerous

intersection, one where she had almost been hit no less than five times, she said. Suddenly, a speeding car screeched to a halt about 15 feet before the stoplight and waved her across the street. "I was shocked at the driver's perception until I remembered I was wearing the vest," Stephanie told the Post. "Mission accomplished, Earl!"

PROTECTIVE APPAREL

▶ On a cold February night, Keith Witte was part of a first-response team sent to the scene of a two-vehicle crash in which one person was trapped. Keith is a paramedic with Allina Medical Transportation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The patient was in the vehicle for more than a half-hour while Keith and his teammates worked to extricate him. During this time, Keith was lying across a crushed passenger seat and dashboard — with broken glass and vehicle fluid "everywhere" — while holding open the patient's airway. After the patient was freed and airlifted to a hospital, Keith's team was cleared to return to their station for cleanup and a change of clothes. "I removed my jacket to find that the right sleeve was covered with glass and what I thought was antifreeze," Keith recalled. "But after brushing the sleeve off and finding a small burn on my wrist and smelling the odor, I realized it was battery acid on my sleeve. The sleeve was melting right before my eyes. But the jacket had saved me from severe battery acid burns during the line of duty. In fact, the jacket kept me warm, cut-free and burn-free for over seven years." (Protective garment by [Blauer Manufacturing Co.](#))

▶ The following text is excerpted from a letter sent to Barry Dixey, chief of the Marblehead (Mass.) Fire Department, which appeared in the *Marblehead (Mass.) Reporter*. On behalf of the Light Department, I wish to thank the members of your department for their assistance and professionalism during a potentially injurious situation for one of our line workers. During a snowstorm, one of our line workers was attempting to clear a high-voltage line burning in a tree. The burning line flared up, creating an enormous flash and a lot of smoke, temporarily disorienting the line worker, who was working up in the bucket. The line



workers on the ground, recognizing his situation, acted quickly to bring the bucket down and assisted him from the truck. The firefighters, who were already on scene responding to the burning wire call, quickly provided emergency medical assistance. They assessed his situation and took all precautionary measures, including requesting an ambulance. As a result of wearing his personal protective equipment -- including fire-retardant clothing, safety glasses, high-voltage gloves, and hard hat — the line worker was uninjured. He was transported to Salem Hospital as a precaution and was soon released. He came back to work for the remainder of the day and continued on into the evening. Fortunately, this incident concluded without injury to any of our employees. But it is a reminder of the inherent risks and dangers faced by emergency response and hazardous-duty professionals on a daily basis, and how quickly a situation can change requiring immediate action... — Robert V. Jolly Jr., General Manager, Marblehead Municipal Light Department

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

▶ Robert, a fire captain in Columbia, S.C., was wearing respiratory protection as he climbed the stairs in a burning two-story apartment. Suddenly the roof collapsed; Robert was knocked down, pinned briefly on the floor, and exposed to dense smoke and heat estimated at 2,500 degrees F. His clothing and equipment were ablaze as Robert extricated himself from the fallen debris and escaped. But his mask stayed in place, providing the fresh air that enabled him to live to fight another fire. (Respiratory protection by [Mine Safety Appliances Co.](#))

▶ In March 2000, Dennis escaped through thick smoke from a fire in unit near his on the 18th floor of a Chicago apartment building. When the building's fire alarm sounded again last year, Dennis was prepared with a respiratory protection escape hood. "Having the mask knocked down the panic I was feeling so I could think of my plans and how to get out," said Dennis, who already had plotted an escape route. Wearing the hood, he then helped a neighbor to safety. (Smoke escape hood by [Draeger Safety](#))

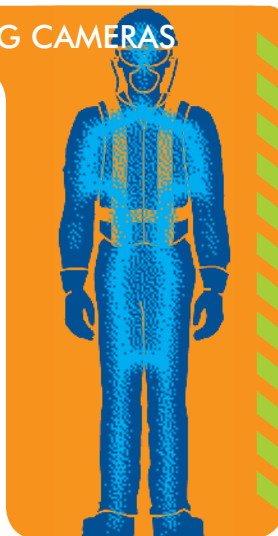


► Floyd was walking on a catwalk at a southern Virginia peanut warehouse when he fell and disappeared into tons of peanuts. He remained trapped for more than an hour until rescuers dug him out and flew him by helicopter to the hospital. A dust mask Floyd was carrying when he fell probably saved his life. He was able to don it while buried in the peanuts, and he survived with only minor trauma. Firefighters said that there had been five similar incidents in the area, all of which ended in fatalities, according to the *Washington Post*.

► A metro Phoenix area fireman lived through a horrific mobile home blaze to fight another day thanks to his personal protective equipment. Twenty-six-year-old Marcus Haynes was conducting a sweep of the burning mobile home, when the fire flared up and flames swallowed him, *FireRescue1.com* reported. Haynes' gear saved his life, Buckeye, Ariz., Fire Department Deputy Chief Paul Carmen told Phoenix' KPHO-CBS 5 News. "Is [his] coat functional anymore? No, but it served its purpose," Carmen said, adding that Haynes' gloves were hard as a rock, and that his breathing system remained intact. "He did not have to inhale any toxic gases and/or superheated gases that would have likely killed him," Carmen reported. Police at the scene said that the fireman suffered first- and second-degree burns on his hands and one arm, none of which was life-threatening, and he was treated at Phoenix' Maricopa Medical Center.

● THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS

► When a Pennsylvania fire and rescue department arrived on the scene of an accident along an interstate highway, they found that the vehicle had left the roadway and overturned a number of times, and an injured man was lying nearby. On the way to the hospital, he regained consciousness and reported that his pregnant wife also had been in the car. Back at the accident scene, rescuers began searching a dark, wooded area using thermal imaging cameras (TICs). Within a very short time, they located the man's wife about 200 feet from the vehicle. She had wandered away, delirious with head



trauma. The rescue personnel credited their TICs for detecting the woman's warm image almost immediately. The husband, wife and their new baby are doing fine now. (Thermal imagers [Mine Safety Appliances Company](#))

► Thermal imaging cameras were among several tools that helped rescuers find a Boy Scout lost in a rugged section of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Parkway National Park. Twelve-year-old Michael had been camping with six other boys and three parents when he wandered away from their campsite. Hundreds of rescuers fanned out across the mountain terrain looking for him, *Computer World* reported. They were equipped with search dogs and GPS devices, along with thermal imagers, which can locate people by sensing their body heat and often are used by firefighters to find victims inside smoky buildings. The devices can "see" through leafy cover and other barriers. The boy was found alive in good condition on the third day of the search. (Thermal imagers by [Scott Health & Safety](#))

► A suburban Chicago woman can thank three local firefighters and their thermal imaging camera for saving her life on a cold December day. Using their thermal imager, Lake Zurich, Ill., Fire Lt. Phil Capipelli and fire fighters Scott Nemeth and Greg Brendle found the woman who had been missing in the marsh for several hours. Thermal imagers form pictures based on heat given off by various objects, including people. They can show heat through walls, smoke or a thicket. Police had been looking for the woman with a search dog, but had no luck, the *Chicagoland Daily Herald* reported. Then the fire department applied its thermal imager. Deborah Puracchio, public relations specialist for ISEA member Bullard, which makes the thermal imager used to locate the woman, told the *Daily Herald*: "[The fire fighters] went to the highest point they could. They saw a little blip that looked like it could be a person." That blip led the fire fighters through the marsh to the missing person. Bullard honored the Lake Zurich fire fighters by inducting them into the company's "Save-A-Life Club." (Thermal imagers by [Bullard](#))

● 'SAFETY EQUIPMENT WORKS FOR YOU' WORKS FOR OTHERS

► It is always encouraging to hear from *Protection Update* readers who are able to put the information we provide to good and practical use. Such was the case after Marc Levine, safety services specialist at Schering-Plough Research Institute in Union, N.J.: "I recently saw two pictures of safety glasses that were damaged and saved two persons' eyesight in the October 2006 *Occupational Hazards* magazine," wrote Levine. "Needless to say that a picture is worth a thousand words. Is there any way to get copies of those two safety glasses photos so I can use them in my training sessions? They would make great training aids." Those words were music to our ears. We immediately emailed Marc both of the photos in high-resolution format, and he wrote back: "Thanks to all. When I make my quarterly presentation to 150 chemists, these types of slides do more to enforce why we wear PPE than me talking about it for 20 minutes." Thanks, Marc, for your encouraging words and for letting us know that *Protection Update* makes a positive difference in your safety program.

► To ISEA: In the October 2006 *Occupational Hazards* magazine, you had two pictures of safety glasses that were damaged but yet saved two persons' eyesight. Is there any possibility of getting these photos sent to me electronically in a digital format so that I can use them in future outreach presentations? My experience has been that photos are oftentimes much more powerful in changing work practices and behaviors than are mere words on a slide. If you have other photos that similarly depict the value of wearing personal protective equipment (protective eyewear or any other PPE), I'd sure appreciate receiving those as well. Keep up the great work...you magazine is very informative and I look forward to receiving and reading my copy each month.

— Thanks. Gordon J. DeLeys, compliance assistance specialist, U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA, Buffalo (N.Y.) Area Office.



● MISCELLANEOUS

► Hydration Pouch Helps Save Kayaker's Life

An Alaska woman survived in the Pacific Ocean off Maui Island, Hawaii, for 19 hours thanks in part to her hydration system, which helped keep her alive — although not the way you might think — until rescuers arrived, KHON-TV2, Honolulu, reported. Lillian Ruth Simpson was kayaking when she capsized about a mile offshore, where she was stranded until a charter boat captain and his crew rescued her. "I thought I saw a bunch of balloons tied together floating," said Joseph Carvalho Jr. As he got closer he saw Simpson wave. She had tied her bikini top to her head to hold in her body heat, and "made her own lifejacket" using the hydration pack to keep herself afloat, Carvalho said. A crew member aboard Carvalho's boat jumped into the water and brought Simpson to safety. The Coast Guard took her to Maui Memorial Hospital, where she was treated for dehydration and exhaustion, and then released, the television station reported. Such hydration systems are not intended to work as personal flotation devices, but in this case one certainly kept Ms. Simpson afloat and probably saved her life.

