

Impalement hazards

Company name _____ Presenter _____
Location _____ Date _____

Impalement hazards create the potential for serious injuries on the jobsite. Rebar, concrete form pins and sharp objects are common impalement hazards.

- Mushroom style caps are often installed on rebar. However, this type of protection only protects against cut and scratch hazards. In some circumstances, the force of a fall can cause rebar to push through a plastic mushroom style cap and still impale a worker, or the worker can be impaled by the rebar and the cap together.
 - The OSHA Directorate of Construction released a memo about this issue which included the following "Manufacturers of the mushroom caps agree that those CAPS were designed to provide SCRATCH PROTECTION ONLY and were never intended to prevent impalement, even at grade."
- When capping rebar, only rebar caps designed to provide protection from impalement, such as those containing steel reinforcement, should be used when impalement hazards are present.

Mushroom cap design (scratch protection only)



Steel reinforcement cap



Be aware that rebar and other objects on the jobsite can create impalement hazards:

- Concrete form pins that are exposed above the form.
- Utilities stubbed out vertically.
- Scrap material or stored material with sharp edges.
- Protruding nails and screws from demolition.

For additional information – See OSHA Letters of interpretation

- www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1997-05-29-0
- www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1999-08-03-2

Sign-in sheet (please print)

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