

**SAFETY HEADGEAR  
DESCRIPTION AND USE**

**1. GENERAL**

- 1.01 This Section supersedes 081-020-010SW. It covers the description, use and care of safety headgear.
- 1.02 This Section is reissued to delete reference to AT&T requirements and update the information and requirements to reflect the products currently approved within SWB. This issue supersedes all previous documentation of hardhat description and use.
- 1.03 Safety headgear is designed to act both as a shield and a shock absorber to protect against head injuries. The headgear is also designed to provide protection against electric shock in case of accidental contact with electrically energized object.
- 1.04 The use of safety headgear in no way reduces the need for good job planning or the requirements for observing all required safety precautions.

**2. DESCRIPTION**

- 2.01 The C safety cap and safety hat (Fig. 1) consists of molded, high-impact plastic shells equipped with detachable suspensions which are adjustable to different head sizes. Both styles are available in white only with a single white reflective stripe, for safety purposes, running horizontally around the bottom edge of the crown and the Southwestern Bell logo hot stamped on each side.
- 2.02 The suspension for the caps (Fig. 2) consists of a ratchet adjustable molded plastic band with a sweatband and straps attached. The straps in both cap and hat are in a fixed position to ensure proper clearance between the top of the head and the inside of the crown. A nape strap is provided as an integral part of the suspension.
- 2.03 The C safety cap and safety hat are manufactured by E.D. Bullard Company, Sausalito, California. A wide range of accessories are available directly from the manufacturer as described in their literature.
- 2.04 The C safety cap is equipped with slots on each side of the hardhat to accommodate a variety of accessories. When accessories are not fused, slot plugs can be inserted in the slot. The sole function of the slot plugs is to lessen the possibility of water (rain, snow) and particles (dust, dirt, etc.) from entering through the slot. They do not increase or decrease the level of protection provided by the cap.

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**3. USE**

- 3.01 Safety headgear shall be worn by all personnel engaged in outside plant work whenever they are subjected to conditions which could result in (1) head injuries from falling or moving objects or striking against stationary objects, or (2) electric shock from accidental contact with electrically energized objects. It is not feasible to cover every situation requiring the use of headgear; however careful observance of the principles and precautions outlined below will do much to prevent head injuries and electric shock.**
- 3.02 Following are the more common work operations and conditions under which safety headgear shall be worn:**
- (a) Performing all kinds of work, i.e., line, splicing, installation, and repair work, from aerial lift trucks**
  - (b) Performing work aloft such as from poles, ladders and platforms**
  - (c) Working with or in the vicinity of construction apparatus and equipment such as derricks, booms, winches, take-up reels, earth boring machines, cable trailers, tractors, trenchers, and cable plows**
  - (d) When below work being done aloft or when performing overhead work from the ground such as placing cable blocks on strand, raising wire, and pruning trees**
  - (e) All pole placing and removal work**
  - (f) Entering, leaving, and working in manholes except when not exposed under the opening and headroom is sufficient**
  - (g) Working in any area, or enclosure, where headroom is insufficient such as in crawl spaces, cellars, steam tunnels and attics**
  - (h) Working in trenches, splicing pits, or other excavations of 3 feet or over in depth**
  - (i) When in or near buildings under construction or being demolished**
  - (j) When in an industrial establishment or on other premises where the wearing of head protection is mandatory**
  - (k) Storm restoration work**
  - (l) Performing blasting operations or when in the vicinity of such operations**

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#### 4. CARE

- 4.01 It is important to realize that safety headgear does not have an indefinite useful life. It is the users personal responsibility to regularly inspect their hardhat. It is recommended that it be inspected daily when used frequently and prior to use when used infrequently.

Proper care and maintenance of headgear cannot be ignored if the cap is to provide the protection for which it is designed.

- 4.02 The protective cap or hat consist of two basic components, the shell and the suspension, which work together as a system. Both need regular inspection and maintenance.
- 4.03 Safety headgear should be carefully examined for signs of damage. Any safety cap or hat that becomes cracked, punctured, or otherwise damaged so its effectiveness is reduced, should be replaced.
- 4.04 Shells exposed to heat, sunlight, and chemicals can become stiff and brittle. There can be a visible craze pattern. It can be dull in color or have a chalky appearance. Replace these helmets also.
- 4.05 If the helmet sustains a severe impact from an object, it should be replaced even though no damage is visible.
- 4.06 Another check is to compress the shell inward from the sides about 1 inch with both hands and then let go without dropping the shell (flex test). The shell should spring back exhibiting a degree of elasticity. Compare the elasticity of the sample shell to that of a new shell. If the sample shell does not exhibit a similar degree of elasticity to that of the new shell, or it cracks due to brittleness, it should be replaced immediately.
- 4.07 The suspension system inside the helmet is as important as the shell itself. Over long periods of use, the suspension can become damaged and worn. Regular inspections should include looking closely for cracking, fraying material, or other signs of wear, especially at the suspension lugs. These can be caused by hair oil, perspiration, and normal wear. Also check the suspension pliability. If it shows signs of deterioration or damage, it should be replaced immediately without replacement of the entire hard hat.
- 4.08 Safety headgear should not be stored on the rear window shelf of an automobile. Sunlight and extreme heat may cause degradation that will adversely affect the degree of protection they provide. Also, in the case of an emergency stop or accident, the helmet may become a hazardous missile.
- 4.09 Further, whenever the fitness of a hardhat is in doubt by either the wearer or supervisor, it should be taken from service immediately.

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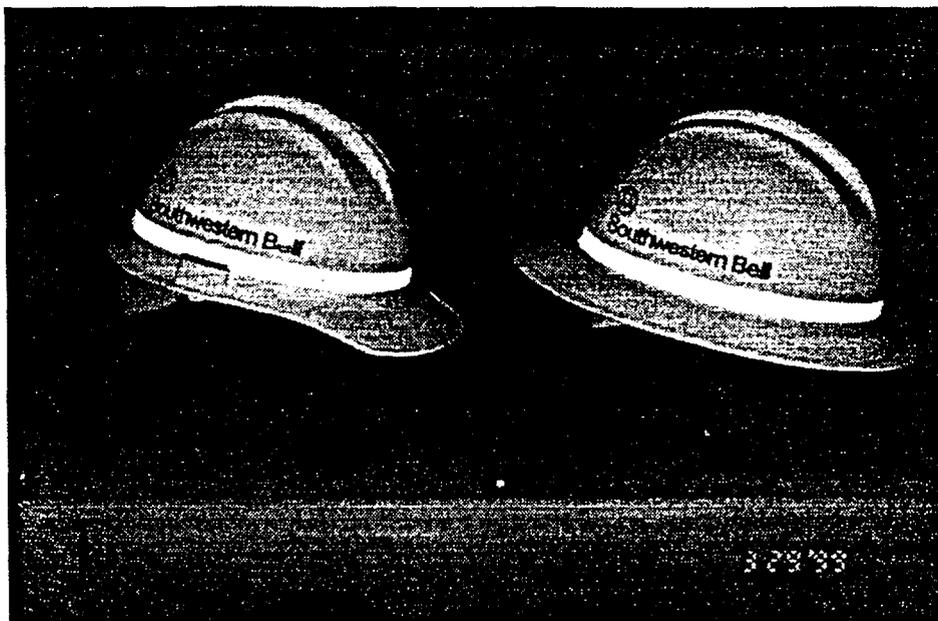


Figure 1 – C Safety Cap & Hat

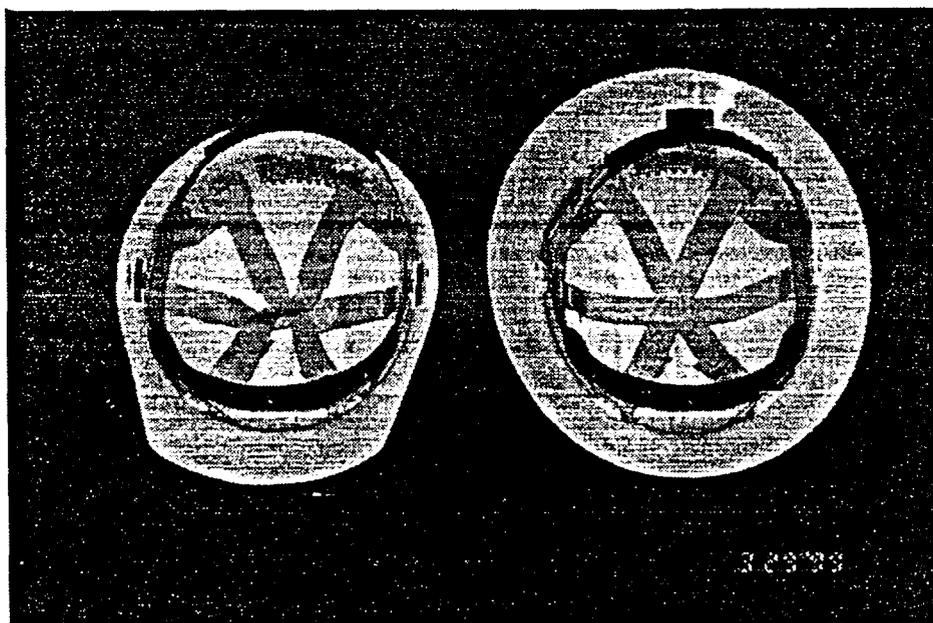


Figure 2 – C Safety Cap & Hat Suspension

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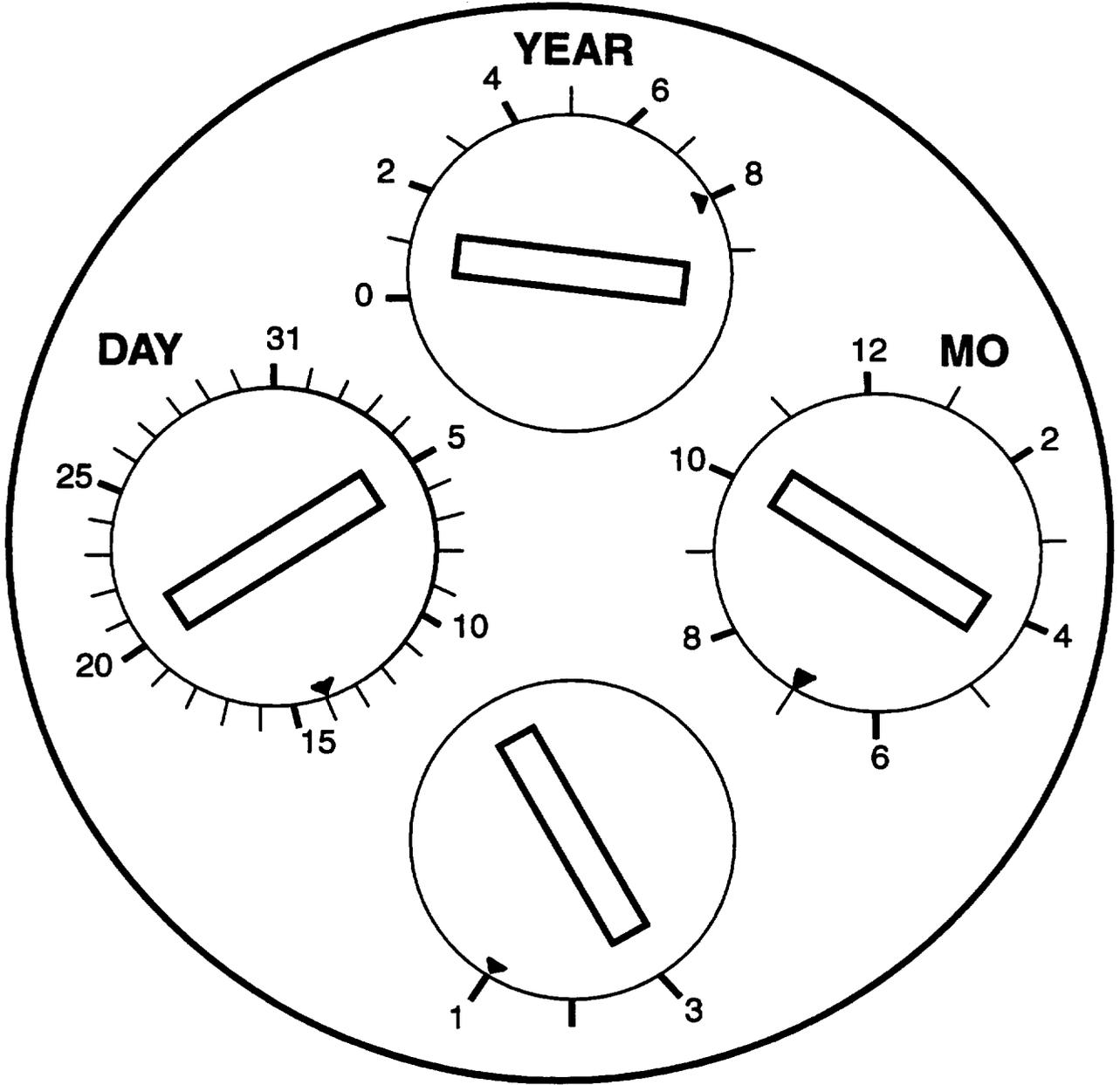
- 4.10 Safety headgear may be cleaned by washing with mild soap and warm water. To clean, remove the suspension and dip the shell in warm, soapy water. If necessary, scrub with a cloth or soft brush. A stiff brush may scratch the shell or striping. Rinse in clear, warm water and wipe dry. The suspension may be washed with regular soap and water.
- 4.11 Since some types of paint may damage plastic material, safety headgear should not be painted. Identification may be placed on the exterior surface of the safety headgear using the following guidelines:
- Identification labels of vinyl/acrylic adhesive only may be used (nothing metallic).
  - Identification must be placed on the global surface of the headgear and not on the brim.
  - Identification shall not be placed closer to the lower edge of the headgear than the striping.
- 4.12 No holes or accessories other than identification tape as mentioned in Paragraph 4.11 or items covered in Part 2 shall be added to the headgear.
- 4.13 When chin straps or liners are used, the straps shall not be drawn over the brim or peak, as this would reduce the electrical protection provided by the headgear.
- 4.14 Employees should not carry anything inside the helmet. A clearance must be maintained inside the helmet for the protection system to work. In the event of a blow to the head, the space must be used to help absorb the shock of the blow.

## 5. DATE OF MANUFACTURER

- 5.01 The date of manufacturer is stamped on both the safety hat and the safety cap. This data is for information purposes and not intended to be used as a reference point for automatic change-out of headgear after it reaches a certain age.
- 5.02 The date of manufacture will appear as a code stamped under the visor of the C safety cap and the under brim of the safety hat. Examples of the codes are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.
- 5.03 The example in Fig. 3 illustrated the date code for the C safety cap. It shows a stamp with four dials inside a circle. The four dials indicate the year, month, day and the shift that the cap was manufactured. The year, month, day and shift is indicated by a small arrow on the inside of each dial, opposite a number. In this example, the cap was manufactured on July 14, 1998 on the first shift.
- 5.04 The example in Fig. 4 illustrates the date code for the (full brim) safety hat. There are two round dials stamped under the brim. One dial is numbered 1-31 with an arrow pointing to one of the numbers. This dial indicates the day of manufacture. The other dial is numbered 1-12 with an arrow indicating the month of manufacture. In the middle of the month dial is a two-digit number that signifies the year. In this example, the hat was manufactured on November 2, 1998.

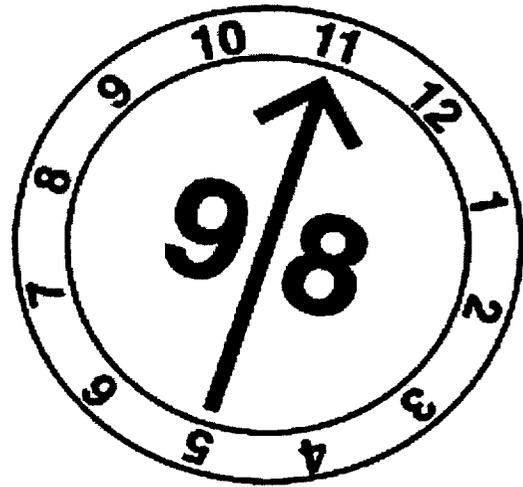
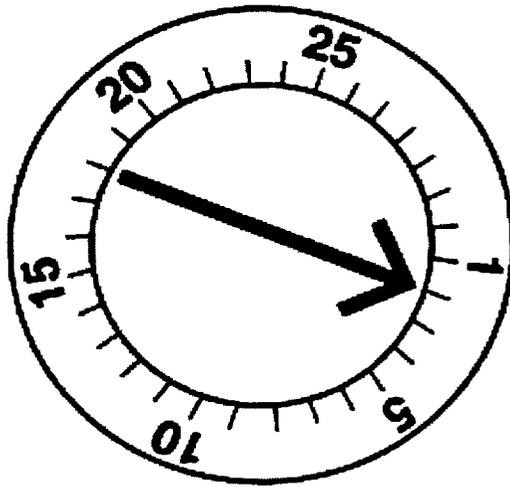
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