

# WORKING **at** HEIGHT

## CONFERENCE & AWARDS

### Traumatic Brain Injury & New Technologies in Safety Headwear



Luke Sylvia

Mips



## Short about me

- Bachelor of Science from NC State University in Human Bio w/ Minor in chemistry
- Background in Industrial Sales and Account Management through distribution, overseeing major accounts in the aggregate sector
- Longstanding passion for motorcycling



**Luke Sylvia**  
Regional Sales Manager, Southeast U.S.



# Agenda - 1

Mips

- **Statistics and reports on fatalities and TBIs in construction**

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- **Evolution of head safety in construction – Type 1 vs. Type 2**

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- **OSHA, ANSI and EN standards**

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- **Traumatic Brain Injury and the effect of rotational motion**

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- **Questions**

# Agenda - 1

Mips

## ● **Statistics and reports on fatalities and TBIs in construction**

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## ● Evolution of head safety in construction – Type 1 vs. Type 2

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## ● OSHA, ANSI and EN standards

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## ● Traumatic Brain Injury and the effect of rotational motion

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## ● Questions

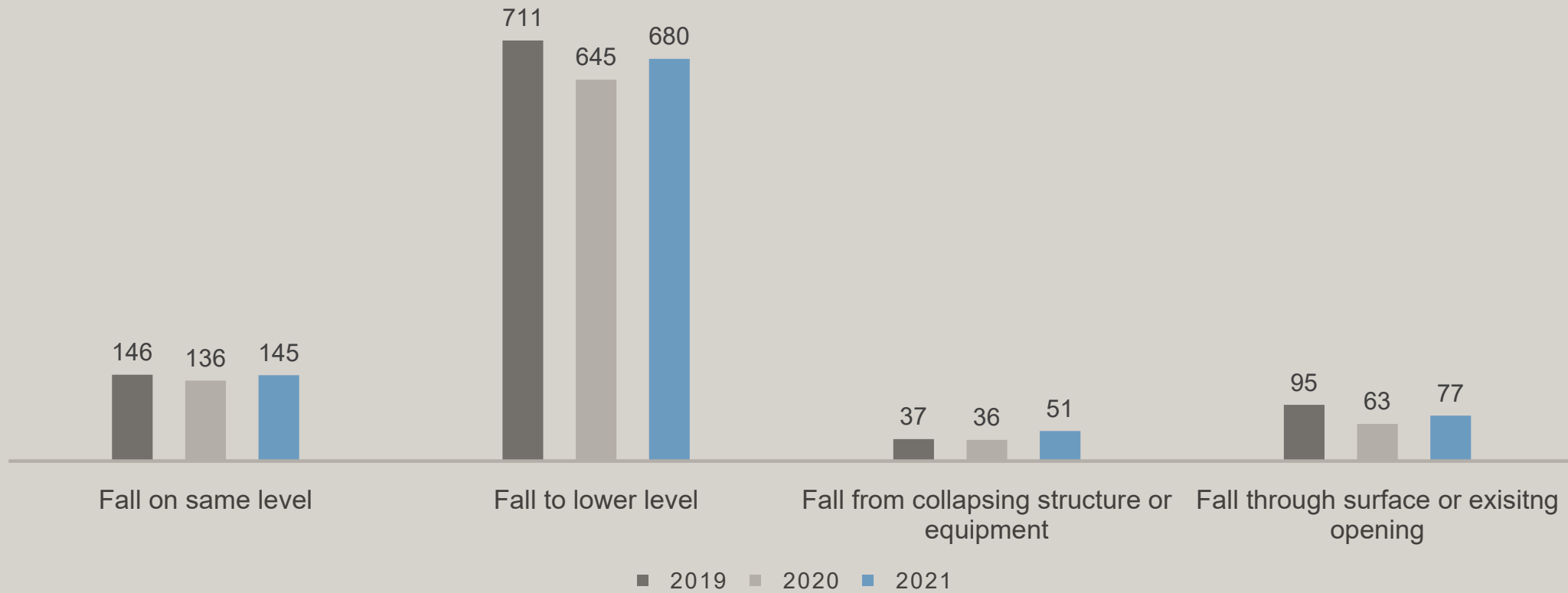
# Construction jobsites commonly have potential trip hazards

Mips



# Fatal occupational injuries by event

## SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

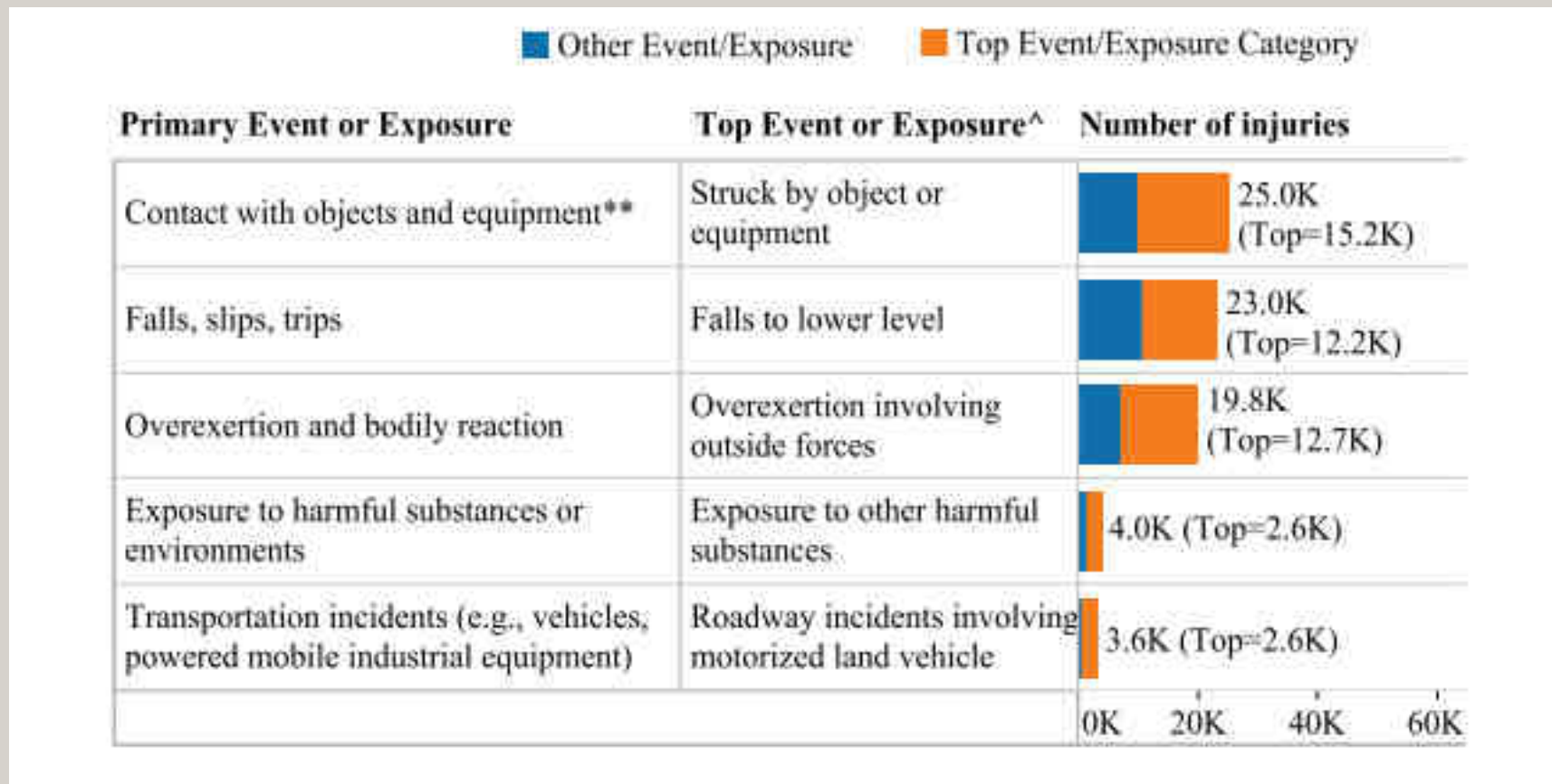


Number of incidents; National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2021, Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Non-Fatal occupational injuries by event, average of 2018-2020

Mips

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 2018-2020 SURVEY OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES



<sup>^</sup>Defined as the most common category within the primary event or exposure category.

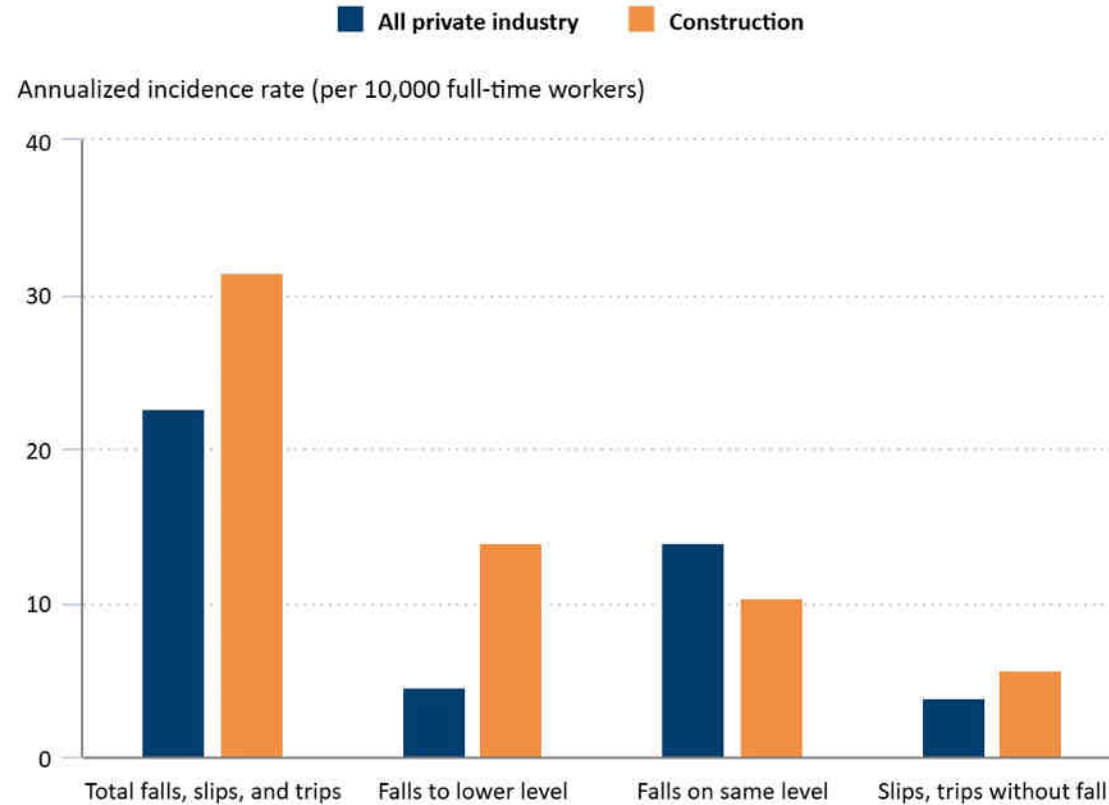
<sup>\*\*</sup>Contact injuries involving a fall, transportation incident, fire, explosion, or violence are included in those categories. Primary event or exposure categories are mutually exclusive.

# Lost Time – Days away from work

Mips

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS; NATIONAL CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN 2023, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Annualized rate of nonfatal injuries involving days away from work per 10,000 full-time workers by selected event, private industry, 2021–22



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



The average direct costs associated  
with a concussion are **\$54,571**

OSHA, <https://www.osha.gov/safetypays/estimator-text>

# Agenda - 2

Mips

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● Traumatic Brain Injury and the effect of rotational motion

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● Questions

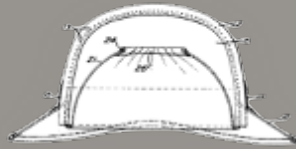
# History of Hard Hats

## Shipyard Hard Hat



Hard Boiled Hat – Bullard creates leather and metal hat for the US Navy.

## Inner Suspension



Inner Suspension invented by EW Bullard.

## Aluminium



Aluminum Hard Hats become standard for their greater durability and lighter weight.

## Fiberglass



Fiberglass hard hats are introduced. These were the best choice for high heat applications.

## Plastic



Injection-molded plastic hard hats are introduced as a less expensive option than aluminum or fiberglass.

1919

1928

1938

1940's

1951

What's new in the last 60 years?



Attachment for Face shields



Hearing Protection



Integrated Eyewear



Rated Chinstraps

# SHOCK, IMPACT, & PENETRATION TESTING



Industrial hard hats are subjected to many types of testing to provide the best protection possible. Learn about shock and impact testing requirements for ANSI and EN.



**TYPE I**

**ANSI Z89.1-2014 R2019**



**TYPE II**

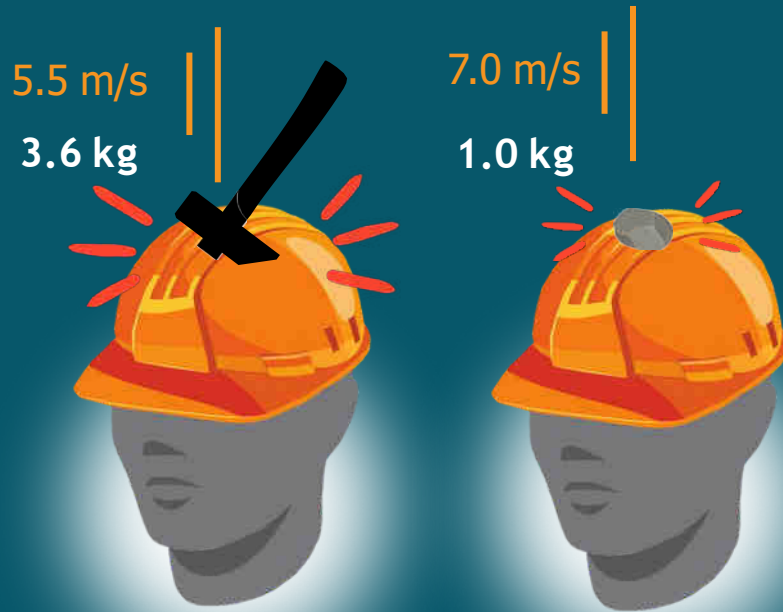
**ANSI Z89.1-2014 R2019**



**EN12492**

**EN 12492:2012**

# ANSI Z89.1-2014 R2019



**Shock & Impact**

**Penetration**



**Test Zone**



## TYPE I

**Test:**  
Force Transmission

**Equivalent:**  
Hammer falling from  
over 21 ft. (6.4 m)

**Impact Force:**  
54.5 Joules (40.2 ft.-lb.)

**Pass Criteria:**  
Transmitted force  
< 4450 N (1000 lb.)  
Sample average  
< 3780 N (850 lb.)

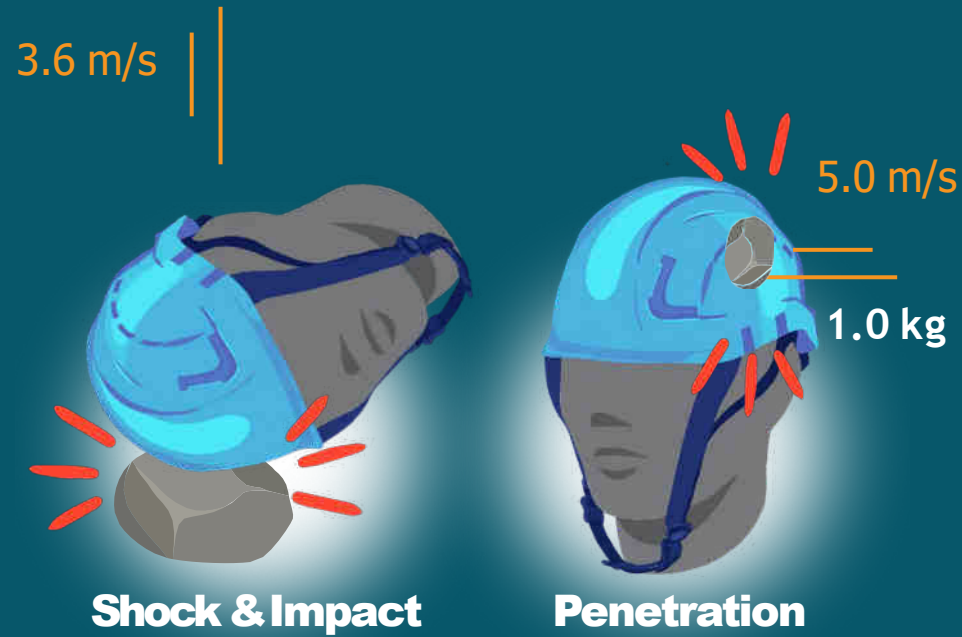
**Test:**  
Impact Energy  
Attenuation

**Equivalent:**  
Hammer falling from  
nearly 12 ft. (3.7 m)

**Impact Force:**  
30.6 Joules (22.6 ft.-lb.)

**Pass Criteria:**  
Maximum  
acceleration  $\leq 150 \text{ g}^*$

ANSI Z89.1-2014 R2019



Test Zone



## TYPE II

**Test:**  
Apex Penetration

**Equivalent:**  
Hammer falling from  
over 10 ft. (3.0 m)

**Impact Force:**  
24.5 Joules (18.1 ft.-lb.)

**Pass Criteria:**  
Penetrator shall not  
make contact with  
top of test headform.

**Test:**  
Off-Center  
Penetration

**Equivalent:**  
Hammer falling from  
nearly 4.9 ft. (1.5 m)

**Impact Force:**  
12.5 Joules (9.2 ft.-lb.)

**Pass Criteria:**  
Penetrator shall not  
make contact with  
top of test headform.

# Agenda - 3

Mips

Statistics and reports on fatalities and TBIs in construction

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Evolution of head safety in construction – Type 1 vs. Type 2

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**OSHA and ANSI standards**

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Traumatic Brain Injury and the effect of rotational motion

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Questions

# Current OSHA standards for head protection

**1926.100(a)** Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets.

**1926.100(b)** *Criteria for head protection.*

**1926.100(b)(1)** The employer must provide each employee with head protection that meets the specifications contained in any of the following consensus standards:

- **1926.100(b)(1)(i)** American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1-2009, "American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection," incorporated by reference in §1926.6;
- **1926.100(b)(1)(ii)** American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1-2003, "American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection," incorporated by reference in §1926.6; or
- **1926.100(b)(1)(iii)** American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1-1997, "American National Standard for Personnel Protection- Protective Headwear for Industrial Workers-Requirements," incorporated by reference in §1926.6.

# Considerations when selecting head protection

**Hazard Assessment** – Conduct a formal hazard assessment with frequent job hazard analysis (JHA) to ensure appropriate PPE is utilized. *\*29 CFR 1910.132(d)(2)*

**Construction Sites.** For construction sites, especially those with high risks of falling objects and debris, impacts from equipment, awkward working positions, and/or slip, trip, and fall hazards: **consider Type II head protection with chin straps.**

**Oil and Gas Industry.** For oil and gas industry worksites where workers face multiple hazards, including potential exposure to chemicals and severe impacts: **consider Type II head protection with integrated eye and face protection, like face shields and goggles.**

**Working from Heights.** For tasks or jobs that involve working from heights: **consider head protection with chin straps** to prevent the head protection from falling off.

# Agenda - 4

Mips

● Statistics and reports on fatalities and TBIs in construction

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● Evolution of head safety in construction – Type 1 vs. Type 2

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● OSHA, ANSI and EN standards

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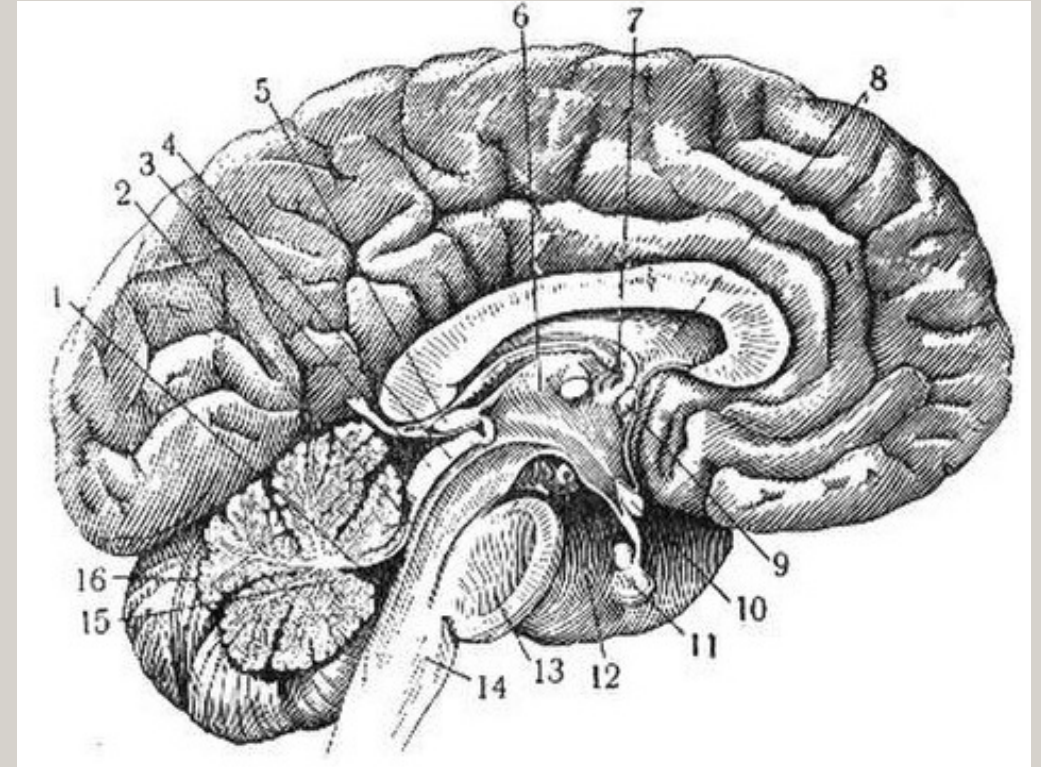
● **Traumatic Brain Injury** and the effect of rotational motion

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● Questions

# What is a TBI?

- A traumatic brain injury, or TBI, is an injury that affects how the brain functions. There are 3 types of TBIs: mild, moderate and severe.
- There were over 64,000 TBI-related deaths in the U.S. in 2020 according to the CDC. On average: about 176 per day.
- Falls lead to nearly half of the TBI-related hospitalizations.
- Several of the effects that may be associated with traumatic brain injuries are not visible to others.



# Why is brain injury sometimes referred to as an invisible disability?

Several of the effects that may be associated with brain injury are not visible to others.

Many individuals who have sustained a brain injury do not use assistive devices that would immediately signal that they have a disability. They may appear to be functioning in the same way that they did before the injury, even though they may be physically, emotionally, or cognitively impaired.

[Brain Injury Association of America](#)

# How Common Are TBIs in Construction?

- Structural iron and steel workers and roofers had the highest fatal TBI rate, and TBIs related to falls caused most of their deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- Falls, especially from roofs, ladders, and scaffolds, led to >50% of fatal work-related TBIs.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> KONDA S, REICHARD A, TIESMAN HM, HENDRICKS S, 2015

<sup>2</sup> KONDA S, TIESMAN HM, REICHARD AA, 2016



# Type of Injury dependent on Impact

IMPACT DIRECTION:

Linear



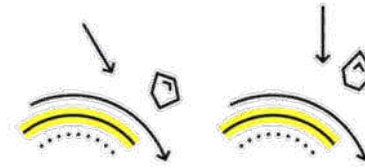
ACCELERATION DIRECTION:



TYPE OF INJURY:

- Fracture
- Epidural hematoma (EDH)
- Contusion

Angled & Tangential



- Concussion
- Subdural hematoma (SDH)
- Diffuse axonal injury (DAI)

Holbourn 1943  
Ommaya et al. 1967  
Ommaya and Hirsch 1971  
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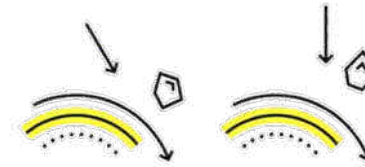
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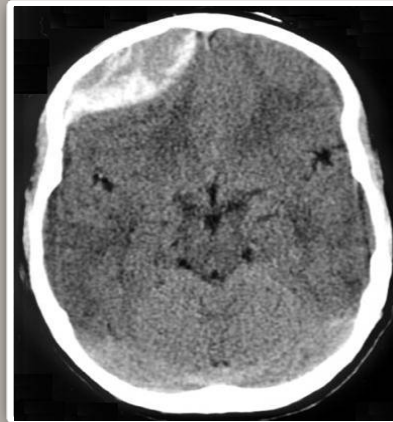
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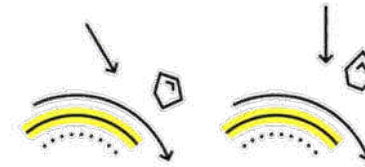
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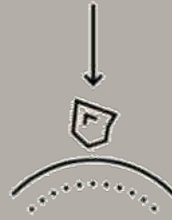
1\* "Traumatic acute epidural hematoma" by Jpogi is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

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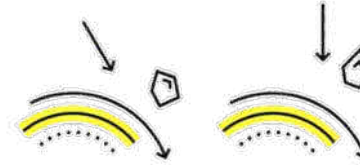
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1\* Patrick J. Lynch,  
medical illustrator; C. Carl  
Jaffe, MD, cardiologist

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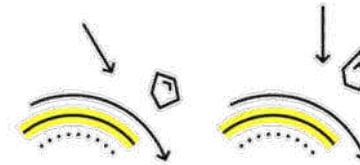
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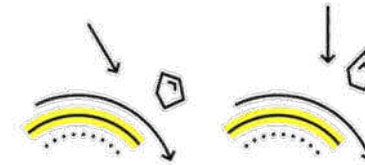
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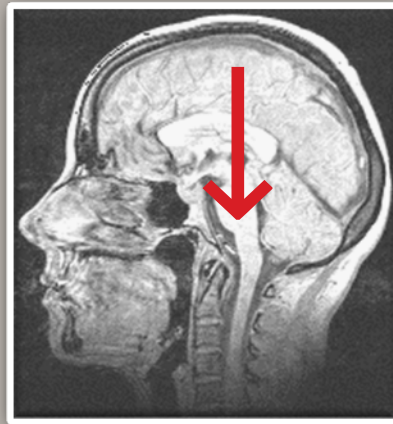
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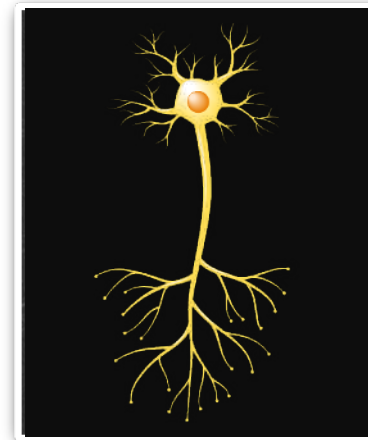
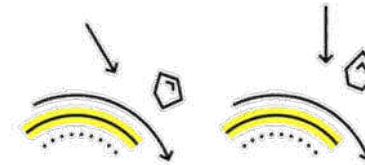
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● Statistics and reports on fatalities and TBIs in construction

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● Evolution of head safety in construction – Type 1 vs. Type 2

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● OSHA, ANSI and EN standards

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● **Traumatic brain injury & the effect of rotational motion**

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● Questions

# The science of head injuries

Rotational motion is a combination of rotational energy (angular velocity) and rotational forces (angular acceleration) that may result from oblique impacts to the head. As the rotational motion is transferred to the brain it can start to deform and shearing can occur which may cause damages to the axons in the brain, amongst other damage.

During most impacts both linear and rotational motions occur and gives an increased risk of injury.

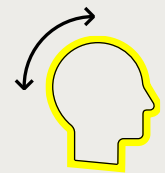
Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) are commonly caused by **rotational motion** and **strain** to the brain.

Injury statistics demonstrate that when someone trips, falls, or is struck by a fallen object, the impact is more likely to be at an angle instead of directly on top of the head.





Linear Impacts =  
No rotational energy

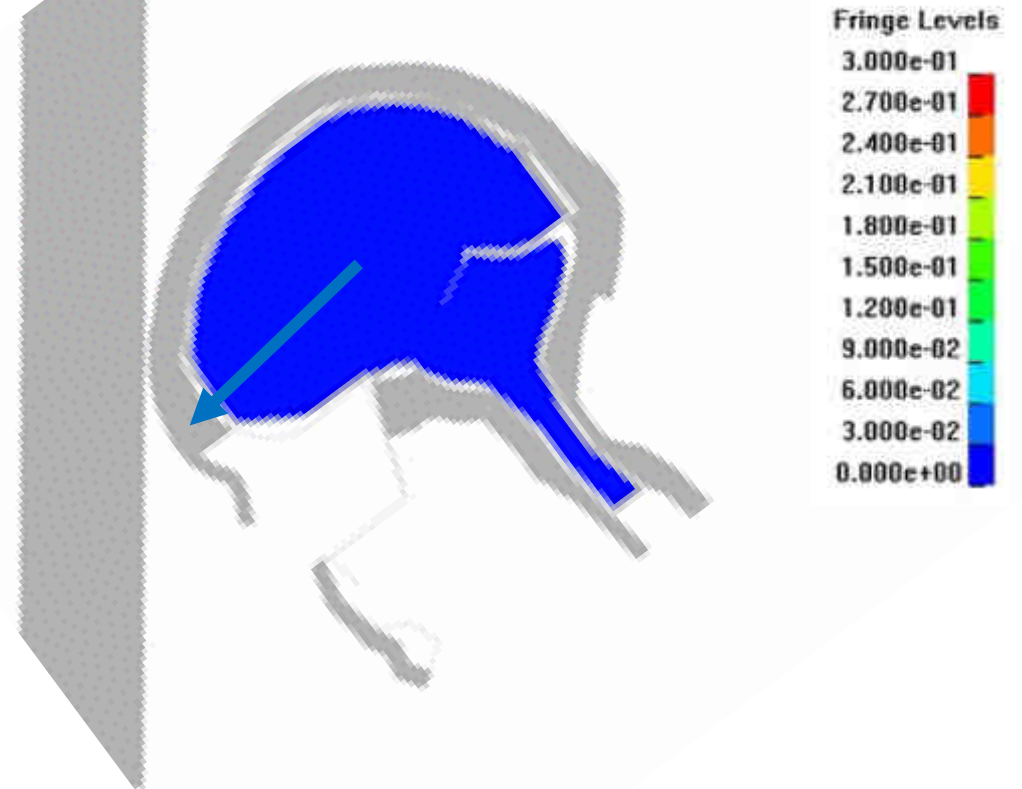
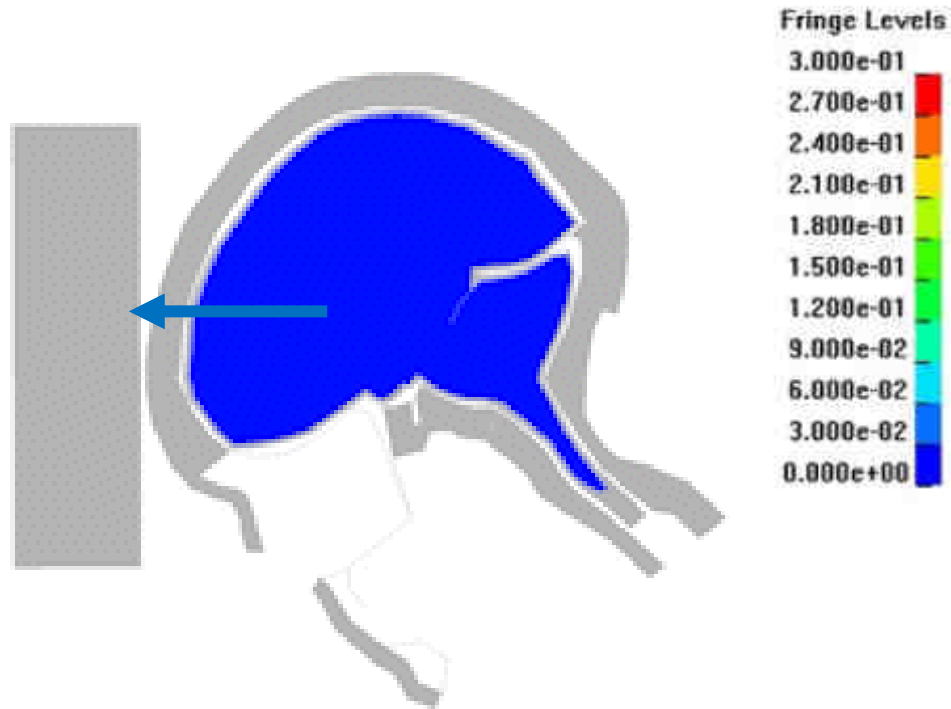


Angled Impacts =  
Rotational energy



# Simulation comparing Linear vs. Angled impact @ same impact velocity

Mips



FE model simulation from Kleiven, Enhanced Safety of Vehicles 2007

# Mips® Brain Protection System for Industrial Safety Helmets

- At impact, the Mips® system is designed to help reduce the rotational motion transferred to the head by redirecting these forces that are generated by the impact
- The Mips® system allows a 10-15mm relative movement between the helmet and the head during the first critical 5-10ms of the impact
- It is not uncommon that the point load on the head/helmet at impact is a 2,200lbs. The Mips® system is designed to allow the helmet to move even under this kind of pressure

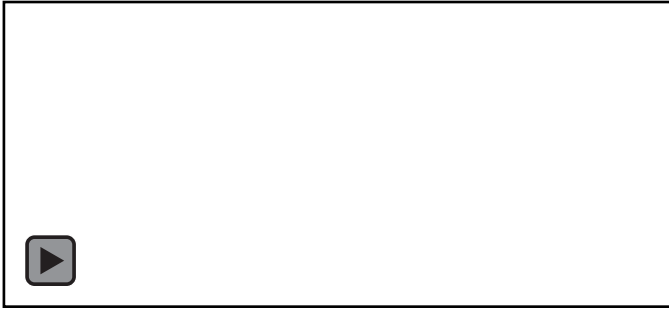


# Case study – simulated effect of the Mips technology

Mips

THE DIFFERENCE OF WEARING A HELMET VS A HELMET WITH MIPS TECHNOLOGY IN A SLIP  
ACCIDENT SCENARIO





## Simulated effect of the Mips® brain protection system for industrial safety helmets

The graphic illustrates the strain in the brain during an angled impact for two different helmet configurations.

The strain is computed with the KTH Brain Model (Kleiven 2007) using the acceleration data from the THUMS model.

**Risk of concussion according to:** Fahlstedt, M., Meng, S., & Kleiven, S. (2022). Influence of Strain post-processing on Brain Injury Prediction. *Journal of biomechanics*, 132, 110940. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2021.110940>

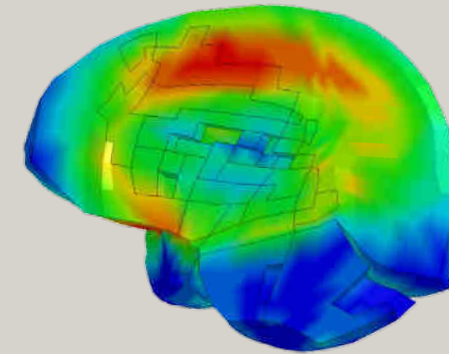
## CASE STUDY – SLIP ACCIDENT

Finite Element simulations of the effect of the Mips® system based on internal proprietary testing by Mips in a safety helmet.

Mips

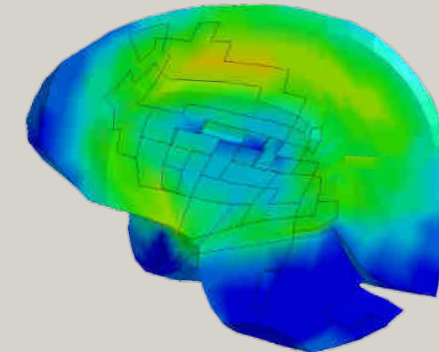
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Helmet without  
Mips® system

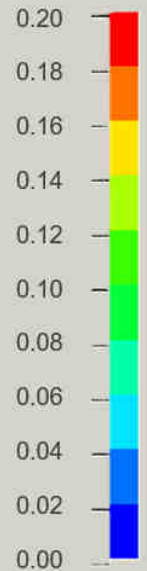


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Same helmet with  
the Mips® system

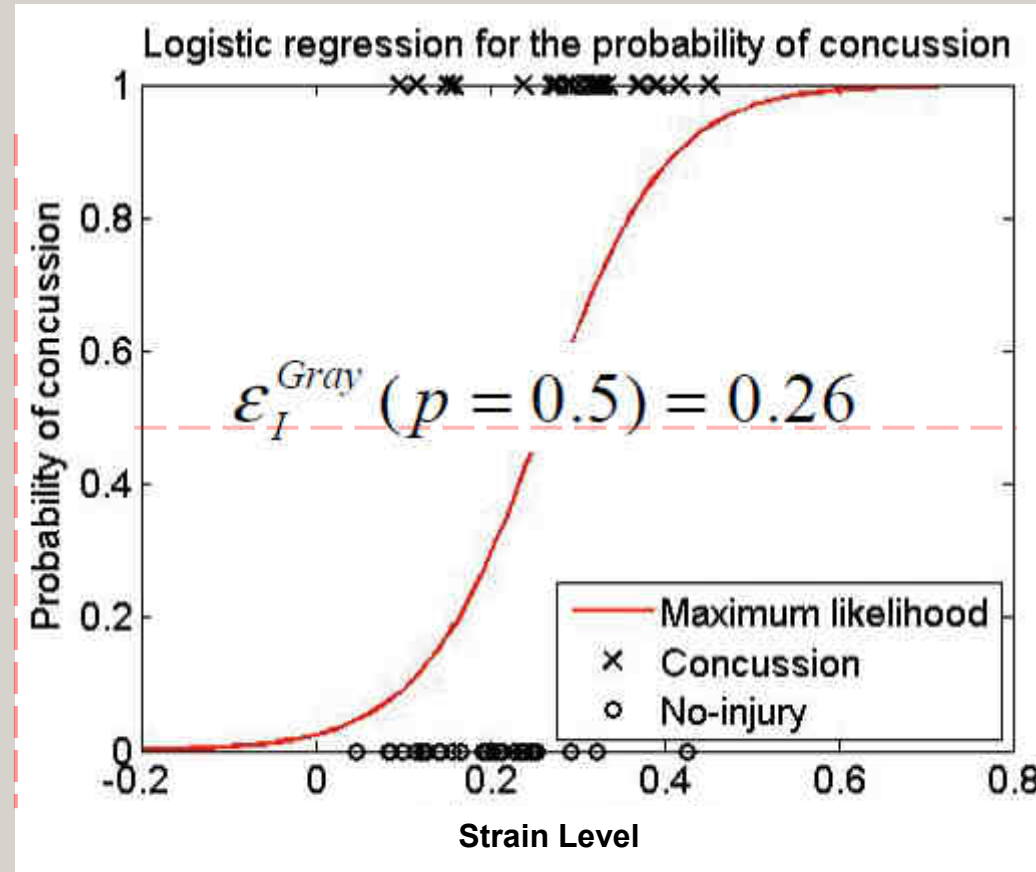


Fringe Levels



# Risk of injury based on results from case study

STRAIN LEVEL IN RELATION TO PROBABILITY OF CONCUSSION



# Summary

- Head protection helps keep people safe at work
- Injuries comes with a cost; of health, of life and financial implications
- Different helmets are designed for different types of situations and risks – choose wisely
- Helmets are typically not designed to address angled impacts – but there are those intended to help provide added safety in this regard.

# Questions?



LET'S CONNECT



[luke.sylvia@mipsprotection.com](mailto:luke.sylvia@mipsprotection.com)  
(704)-941-8605

## Thank you!