

# Safety Caps for Women in War Factories

The public has been shocked and employers have been equally distressed by serious injuries to women war workers occurring because safety caps were not worn or hair was not tucked into the cap.

These injuries can be prevented!

Wear safety caps when the job requires!

Tuck hair fully under the cap!



WOMEN'S BUREAU  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
*Special Bulletin No. 9*  
October 1942

413.10:9

# WHY WEAR SAFETY CAPS?

## 1. To Prevent Scalping Injuries

Feminine hairdress and machinery often combine badly. Pain, costly medical care, and permanent disfigurement result when hair tangles in machinery. The following happened to women in war factories:

An operator of a spinning machine bent over. Her hair caught in the machine. She was totally disabled for 16 weeks as a result of her injury, and for 45 weeks longer was partially disabled. The injury cost \$570 in compensation.

In an ordnance factory, a woman operating a barrel-turning machine leaned too close and her hair was pulled around the barrel. A large clump of hair was torn from her head. She spent days in the hospital recovering from the wound and the shock.

Such examples could be repeated many times. *Every such accident could have been prevented.*

## 2. To Prevent Skin Infections

Personal cleanliness ranks high in preventing skin infections. Face, hands, and arms can be washed several times a day, but hair cannot. *Hair tucked under a cap will keep clean.* The girl in the example following learned this the hard way, by experience.

A girl in a war production plant suffered a face dermatitis from dirt and grease deposited on her pillow from her hair.

## 3. To Prevent Serious Burns

Holding a welding torch while brushing back locks from your forehead is dangerous.

A girl spot welder in a lamp factory learned this when sparks ignited her hair. She was lucky to escape serious burns.

*Keep the Cap On!*

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## WHO SHOULD WEAR CAPS?

*Machine Operators.*—Every woman working on or near machinery should wear complete hair covering. Hair will entwine in moving machine parts and cannot be removed before it is pulled out by the roots, sometimes tearing the scalp.

*Welders.*—Electric and acetylene welders should wear fire-proof hair covering.

*Workers Exposed to Dust or Fumes.*—Need covering to protect hair and to prevent carrying toxic material on hair.

*Workers Exposed to Oils or Grease.*—Need covering to protect hair and to aid in preventing skin infections.

## WHAT IS A GOOD CAP?

A good cap is safe, comfortable, attractive.

1. *Safety.*—For a worker exposed to machines, a cap must completely cover the hair. Stray curls or wisps of hair can be caught in a machine; partial scalping may result. Headsizes should be so generous that hat will be thrown off if it strikes a machine part. Height and stiffness are essential. Height warns the girl that her head is dangerously near machinery. Stiffness guarantees that the cap will not catch in machines. A hairnet alone is not safe; worn fully under a cap, it may help.

Machine operators should not wear a turban or bandanna. It may expose hair, or machines may catch loose ends of cloth. Closely woven washable turbans are good for dusty jobs with no machine danger.

2. *Comfort.*—Caps must be comfortable and light in weight. This helps in enforcing the wearing of caps.

3. *Attractiveness.*—Appearance is important to women. If a cap looks well, women will want to wear it.

## ENFORCE USE OF SAFETY CAPS!

*Introducing Safety Caps.*—A sudden order from the office that all women wear safety hats is not the best way. Better is an experimental period, for women workers to suggest improvements and safety officers to observe. In a company using this method, girls were surprised to find the caps warned them how close to the machines they were.

*Enforcing Safety Rules.*—Half the enforcement battle is won if safety caps are comfortable and attractive and are introduced by wise methods. Persuasion is better than compulsion. Suitable caps, good supervision, good factory morale, are basic in insuring compliance. In many shops all women wear caps without question.

Work of a woman supervisor or personnel manager often secures cap-wearing. Women resent admonitions about clothing from men. A matron in charge of women's locker rooms as each shift begins can check cap-wearing.

Individual backsliders may appear, and the trouble may spread. For new workers, cap-wearing should be made a condition of employment. An employee who repeatedly breaks the rules must be disciplined wisely, possibly in extreme cases suspended.

*Continuing Safety Education.*—Vigilance must not be relaxed. Regular safety meetings, especially for women, should be held. These can repeat at intervals reasons for keeping hair covered, and shop rules as to this. Photographs, motion pictures, and posters showing correct cap-wearing help. Gruesome propaganda is a mistake in safety education and is not effective.

***Guard Machines Completely. Safety Caps Are  
No Substitute for Guarding***