

PPE: Foot Protection

Scenario Answer Key

It's often difficult to get around on the construction jobsite. Imagine how hard it would be if you couldn't walk properly because you dropped something on your foot?

That's why adequate foot protection is so important. If there's a foot hazard, employees need protection.

It happened like this

Gordon was laying brick and would run out of it shortly. He got on the phone and called Justin and told him he needed another skid of bricks. Justin said a truckload of bricks had just arrived and he'd send the driver over.

A few minutes later the truck pulled up and Brad got out. "Hey, where do you want this skid of bricks?"

"Right here," Gordon said while pointing.

Brad operated the small crane on the truck and set the bricks down. The skid banding broke and several bricks bounced over and landed on Gordon's foot.

"Are you Okay?" Brad asked.

"I guess so. This is one time I don't regret wearing these steel-toed boots."

"I never wear steel-toed boots. I hate them, they're so heavy," Brad said.

"Well, maybe you should. You get out of the truck enough to be exposed to foot hazards," says Gordon.

"No thanks, accidents never happen to me. Though, my company does require me to wear them."



What are the issues?

- Foot hazards.
- Violation of company safety policies.

What did Gordon do right?

- Wore steel-toed boots.
- Recognized foot hazards.
- Encouraged Brad wear foot protection.

What did Brad do wrong?

- Didn't check to make sure the banding was secure on the bricks.
- Didn't wear steel-toed boots.

What do you think should happen next?

- Gordon should make sure his foot is okay and report the incident.
- Brad should be told to check that the banding is secure on any material that he is unloading.
- Brad should be instructed to wear appropriate PPE as necessary.
- Provide additional training on foot protection and company safety policies

Selection process

Have employees ask themselves these questions when selecting safety shoes:

- Will the shoe adequately protect your feet from the hazards of your job?
- Does the shoe meet the ANZI Z41.1-1991 standards for foot protection?
- Do the shoes fit both feet comfortably?
- Is there room between the tip of your longest toe and the shoe?
- Can you wiggle your toes freely?
- Does the shoe have flexible upper surfaces and smooth areas inside?
- Does the shoe have built-in cushioning?
- Does the shoe come in leather allowing it to "breathe?"

