



HARD HATS

The first hard hats were not very hard. They were made of canvas and had a hard-leather brim. They looked like baseball caps. They didn't protect the miners from falling rocks. Miners put several layers of shellac on the canvas to make it harder. That gave them better protection. Miners used this kind of hard hat until the end of the First World War.

Mr. Edward Bullard was a soldier in World War I. His helmet was a flattened steel dome with a narrow brim around the edges. Mr. Bullard used this helmet to design the Bullard "Hard-boiled" hat. He used resin, glue and varnish and several layers of canvas stitched together to make the hat. He steamed the materials, just like someone would use steam to cook a hard-boiled egg. That is why it was called a "Hard-boiled" hat. It became very popular. It was used by shipyard workers and by miners.

Next came aluminum hard hats. After that fiberglass hard hats became popular. Today, molded polyethylene, yellow-colored hard hats are the standard across the world.