



EYE PROTECTION

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Protecting your eyes is the easiest thing to do, if you care about your eyes.

The protection of your sight requires three extremes: extremely easy, extremely important, and too often, extremely forgotten. Once you have lost an eye or your ability to see, it is too late.

Key Points

According to OSHA:

- 70% of all eye injuries result from flying or falling objects.
- 20% of all eye injuries result from contact with chemicals.
- Most of the remaining 10% of injuries are caused by objects that swing from an attached position and are pulled into the eye by the employee who is working with them. (i.e. ropes, chains, or tools)
- In addition, 33% of work-related eye injuries are caused not by the injured worker but by a co-worker.

Causes of Eye Injuries

- Small flying objects such as dust or other microscopic objects.
- Particles resulting from chipping, grinding, sawing, brushing, hammering or using power tools (including nail guns). These items move with the speed of a bullet and can permanently damage your eyes.
- Liquids such as chemicals, tar, asphalt solvents, paints or masonry cleaning solutions.
- Invisible light rays such as those generated by welding operations or by a laser beam.

Methods of Protection

- Safety glasses
- Safety goggles
- Face shields
- Welding hoods

Eye and face protection must clearly identify the manufacturer. OSHA requires that any new eye and face protective devices comply with ANSI Z87.1-1989 or be at least as effective as this standard requires.

There are all kinds of safety glasses or goggles available on the market today, always choose eyewear that protects against the greatest possible hazard level. Eye injuries occur in a split second, do not blind yourself to the necessity of protecting your eyes.

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, do not hesitate to contact your Employer.