



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



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## *Eye Protection and Reporting*

Accidents happen every day, and they usually occur in situations you've become all-to-comfortable with. Think of all the times you've completed a task at work without eye protection, injury-free. Perhaps the application doesn't seem that hazardous, or maybe the safety glasses you have are uncomfortable, scratched up, or they fog too easily. Plus, you're good at what you do. You've been doing this job for so long that being careful is second nature. You don't need that safety eyewear.

Until that one time when "being careful" isn't enough. It happens in a split second, and maybe it wasn't your fault. Maybe you did everything right, but the tool you were using randomly failed, a coworker didn't set up the workspace properly, or a machine malfunctioned. But whatever the reason, it happened - you become part of the statistics.

You perceive up to 80% of all impressions by means of sight. If your other senses are compromised, it's your eyes that will best protect you from danger, not to mention provide a more rewarding life. Preserving and protecting this organ is critical. Unfortunately, 300,000 workplace eye injuries send people to the emergency room each year nationwide. And in most cases, safety eyewear is not being worn, it doesn't fit, or doesn't provide the appropriate protection for the application.

Of these 300,000 eye injuries, it's estimated that 90% of them were preventable if the workers had been wearing the appropriate eye protection. Or the incident would have been less invasive if it would have been addressed properly at the time (by reporting it and having it looked at by someone else).

Consider these injury statistics:

- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports that every day about 2,000 U.S. workers sustain job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment.
- Eye injuries make up nearly 45% of all head injuries that lead to missed workdays.
- Eye injuries account for an estimated annual \$300 million in medical bills, compensation, and time off.
- Men ages 25-44 comprise 80% of all workplace eye injury victims.
- 40% of on-the-job eye injuries happen in the manufacturing, construction, and mining industries.

Fortunately, if we wear the proper protection we can prevent many incidents from happening. But even though we feel like we've done everything the right way, something may still get in our eyes. This is when reporting is so vital.

Anytime you feel a foreign body in your eye, we do recommend flushing the eye out immediately which does help to remove minor particles. Even if you feel as if the foreign object is gone you **MUST** report it and have it looked at. Many foreign objects are very tiny, and although you may think that it's gone because you don't feel it anymore, it may have just floated to another location for the time being or lubricated by the eye flush. The eye starts to heal itself very quickly, if the object is still in the eye, it may become a more serious incident the longer you wait. Report it immediately and have it assessed to prevent further injury!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Corporate HSE department at any time.



***Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.***

**SAFETY ALERT**