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HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



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Preventing Eye Injuries At Work

Eye injuries in the workplace are very common. 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. However, safety experts and eye doctors believe the right eye protection can lessen the severity or even prevent 90% of these eye injuries.

Chemicals or foreign objects in the eye and scratches on the cornea are common eye injuries that occur at work. Other common eye injuries come from fluids splashed in the eye, burns from steam and ultraviolet or infrared radiation exposure.

Workers experience eye injuries on the job for two major reasons:

- They were not wearing proper eye protection.
- They were wearing the wrong kind of protection for the job.

What are the potential eye hazards at work?

Workplace eye protection is needed when the following potential eye hazards are present:

- Projectiles (dust, concrete, metal, wood and other particles).
- Chemicals (splashes and fumes).
- Radiation (especially visible light, ultraviolet radiation, heat or infrared radiation, and lasers).
- Bloodborne pathogens (hepatitis or HIV) from blood and body fluids.
- Some working conditions include multiple eye hazards. The proper eye protection takes all hazards into account.

There are four things you can do to protect your eyes from injury:

- Know the eye safety dangers at your work.
- Eliminate hazards before starting work by using machine guards, work screens or other engineering controls.
- Use proper eye protection.
- Keep your safety eyewear in good condition and have it replaced if it becomes damaged.

Your eyes, just like your hands, are vital to your wellbeing. Take the time to take care of them and yourself. You are the key to a safe and happy workplace!

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

SAFETY ALERT