



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



SAFETY ALERT

Alert #: SA 18-26

Date: March 20, 2026

Eye Injuries Trending

Eye injuries remain a significant and preventable hazard. Tasks such as grinding, blasting, chemical handling, pressure washing, and equipment maintenance expose workers to flying debris, chemical splashes, and harmful radiation. Improper selection or use of eye protection can result in **permanent vision loss, lost work time, and life-altering injuries.**

Key Statistics:

2,000 U.S. workers suffer job-related eye injuries **every day**. Over **700,000 workplace eye injuries annually**. Oil & Gas averages **25 eye injuries per 10,000 workers**. **70%** caused by flying particles. **20%** caused by chemical exposure. **90%** are preventable with proper PPE controls. Severe injury reporting, loss of an eye is a documented outcome of workplace incidents.

Common Hazards:

Grinding, cutting, and abrasive blasting (flying debris). Pressure washing and fluid injection. Chemical handling (acids, caustics, hydrocarbons). Welding and hot work (UV/IR radiation). Wind-driven dust, sand, and debris (especially offshore/onshore exposed sites). Poor housekeeping leading to unexpected exposure.

Preventative Measures:

- Safety glasses must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards.
- Use side shields when exposed to flying particles.
- Upgrade to goggles when dust, sand, or splash hazards exist.
- Use face shields in combination with safety glasses/goggles for high-risk tasks.
- Ensure proper lens shade for welding and cutting operations.

Which is best for you?



Task-based PPE (Use PPE Matrix/JSEA):

Identify hazards before starting work. Select eye/face protection based on impact, chemical and radiation risks. Do not rely on basic safety glasses for high-risk tasks.

Fit, Condition and Consistent Use:

PPE must fit properly and provide full coverage. Keep lenses clean and scratch-free, replace damaged or worn PPE immediately. Eye protection must be worn at all times in active work areas.

Engineering & Administrative Controls:

Use barriers, shields, and tool guards. Maintain good housekeeping. Conduct pre-job hazards assessments and toolbox talks. Exercise **Stop Work Authority** if protection is inadequate.

Training & Awareness:

Most eye injuries occur during routine tasks. Reinforce hazard recognition and correct PPE use. Report eye exposures and near misses immediately.

If an Eye Exposure Occurs:

Flush immediately, report the incident and seek medical evaluation.

Key Takeaway:

Eye injuries happen in seconds, but consequences can last a lifetime.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

