



## A Look at Eye Safety October is Eye Injury Prevention Month

Studies show that the two main reasons workers suffer eye injuries are:

1. They weren't wearing *any* eye protection.
2. They were wearing the *wrong type* of eye protection.

These findings give an idea of what to focus on in order to prevent eye injuries. You also need to identify all the eye hazards in your work environment, which could include:

- ☞ **Impact**-from flying chips, particles, sand, and dirt, etc.
- ☞ **Burns**-from sparks, molten metal or chemical splashes
- ☞ **Irritation**-from chemical vapors or dust
- ☞ **Effects of light radiation**-from welding and similar operations

Once you have identified the potential work hazards, select the proper eye protection for the specific job. The wrong type of eye protection may actually be worse than no protection in some cases. It's important to understand what type of safety eyewear protects against different hazards in your work environment. For example:

- ☞ **Safety glasses with side shields** or goggles provide good protection against impact hazards.
- ☞ **Ventilated safety goggles** prevent chemical vapors or dust from getting at delicate eye tissue.
- ☞ **A face shield worn over safety eyewear** provides extra protection from flying particles and chemical splashes.
- ☞ **Goggles worn with a face shield** protect against burn hazards.
- ☞ **Welding goggles with special lenses** protect eye tissue by filtering out harmful light radiation.

Finally, follow these safe work practices when eye hazards may be present:

- ☞ **Obey all warning signs** requiring eye protection.
- ☞ **Always put on eye protection before entering an area** where hazards may be present.
- ☞ **Assume eye hazards are present** whenever you're not sure.
- ☞ **Make sure eye protection fits properly** and comfortably.
- ☞ **Inspect protective eyewear** for damage before *each* use, and replace immediately if there is any defect.
- ☞ **Ask your supervisor** if you're not sure which type of eye protection is required.

If you would like more information about this topic or have questions, contact Rejeana Woolum at 1-877-360-3608, extension 2364. You may also email at [rwoolum@riskcontrol360.com](mailto:rwoolum@riskcontrol360.com).

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