

Preventing Eye Injuries

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- Each day about 2000 U.S. workers have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. About one third of the injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments and more than 100 of these injuries result in one or more days of lost work.
- The majority of these injuries result from small particles or objects striking or abrading the eye. Examples include wood chips, embers from burning materials, particles ejected by tools or equipment, or loose material blown by compressed air. Some of these objects, such as nails, staples, or splinters of wood or metal penetrate the eyeball and result in a permanent loss of vision.
- Large objects may strike the eye/face, or a worker may run into an object causing blunt force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket.
- Chemical burns can occur to one or both eyes from splashes of corrosive chemicals or cleaning products are common.
- UV radiation burns (welder's flash) can harm the eyes of the welding technicians, their assistants, and nearby workers.

OSHA Standard 1910.133(a)(1) *The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.*

- Never risk your safety or that of your co-workers; when hammering, using chisels, or similar activities wear proper safety glasses or goggles designed for impact hazards!
- Always wear safety goggles or other safety eyewear when using sprayers or handling any chemicals or materials.
- Using cutting or grinding tools such as chop saws, concrete saws, bench saws, and hand held grinders can be extremely dangerous to your eyes.
- If you get dust or particles in your eyes NEVER RUB them, it will make the injury worse and can cause permanent damage.
- If you get anything in your eyes, especially chemicals, use clean water to flush your eyes clear of the material and immediately seek medical attention.

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