

According to OSHA, thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection. Eye injuries alone cost more than \$300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and workers compensation.

➤ 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. Examples of hazards to the eyes include:

- Small particles or objects striking or scratching the eye such as wood chips, embers from burning materials, particles ejected by tools or equipment, or loose material blown by compressed air.
- Objects such as nails, staples, or splinters of wood or metal can 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.



*Penetrating eye injury caused by a shard of metal. (*1)*

Remember to wear proper safety glasses, goggles, or face shields designed for impact, heat resistant, or chemical hazards! Never risk your safety or that of your co-workers when:



Employee wearing safety glasses with side protection. (*2)

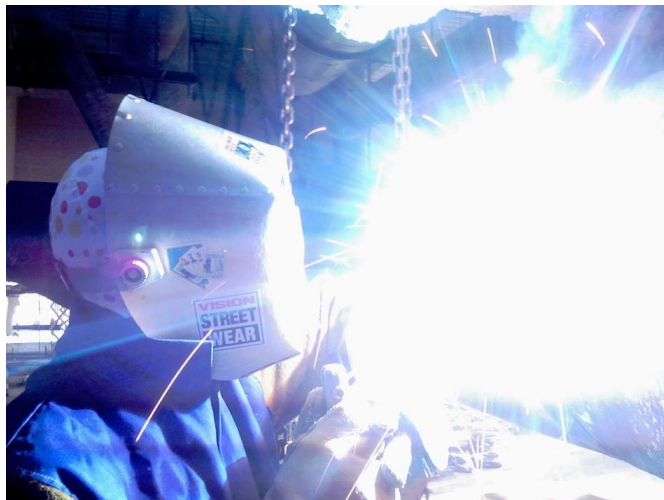
- Performing activities with intense heat and fire such as working with or near an incinerator
- Moving equipment or materials that have the potential for flying objects and particles
- Working near conveyor belts that are moving materials
- Using grinders
- Working in silos or bins
- Using mechanical cutting tools
- Working with chemicals
- Handling bloodborne pathogens
- Working in dusty conditions
- Using power tools
- Performing hot dipping operations
- Near laser radiation



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.*

Proper selection of eye protection is essential to protect a worker from potential injury:

- Wear safety goggles or other safety eyewear when using sprayers or handling any chemicals or materials.
- Wear high impact resistant glasses/goggles/shields when using pneumatic tools, cutting tools, or performing any other tasks where flying objects at high rates of speed are present.
- Wear heat resistant glasses/goggles/shields when working in areas with intense heat and flame producing tasks are being performed.



*A welder wearing appropriate head gear, face shield and eye protection. (*4)*



*Worker wearing safety glasses while cleaning electronics at a recycling facility. (*5)*

OSHA Standard 1910.252(b)(2)(i)(A) *Helmets or hand shields shall be used during all arc welding or arc cutting operations, excluding submerged arc welding. Helpers or attendants shall be provided with proper eye protection.*

INCIDENTS || Eye Injury

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- Using cutting or grinding tools such as chops saws, concrete saws, bench saws, and hand-held grinders can be extremely dangerous to your eyes.
- Working in areas with intense heat and flames require appropriate eye and face protection.

OSHA Standard 1910.133(a)(2) *The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses eye protection that provides side protection when there is a hazard from flying objects. Detachable side protectors (e.g. clip-on or slide-on side shields) meeting the pertinent requirements of this section are acceptable.*



Remember these important safety precautions to avoid workplace eye injuries:

- Never risk your safety or that of your co-workers; when hammering, using chisels, or doing similar activities make sure to 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, make sure to wear the correct eye and face protection.
- If you get dust or particles in your eyes NEVER RUB them as 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.



(*9)



Eye wash station (*10)



Eye wash solution (*11)

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