



# FACILITIES SAFETY MEETING

## Eye Safety

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There are few bodily functions that are as important as your eyesight. Think about what it would be like to be without it. Yet in our line of work there is a constant danger of eye injury, even if you are not engaged in work that will produce flying objects. Standing on a roof can expose you to wind bourn objects. Even some types of office work can expose your eyes to injuries. Fortunately, the solution is simple; wear your safety glasses, or some type of eye protection **at all times while engaged in any type of hazardous activity**. This is good advice when working at home when you are weed whacking, using hand tools, or sawing. Make it a habit. Safety glasses can be inconvenient if the lenses are not clean, are scratched, or fog up, so keep them clean. The fact that your glasses may fog is not an excuse to not wear them. Wearing a sweat band and using anti-fog wipes can help.

Safety glasses must be ANSI certified. Most prescription glasses do not carry this certification. If you wear prescription glasses, you must specify safety lenses when they are ordered. All safety glasses should have some type of side protection. Also, the type of protection depends on the type of work you are doing or the type of work you are around. You may need goggles, an eye shield, and a face mask instead of glasses. **Always** wear a full face shield in addition to your glasses when grinding or using a cutting wheel.

Basically, there are five types of pathways that can cause eye injuries on the job:

1. **Unidentified Flying Objects:** These microscopic objects consist of dust and particles floating around in the air, generated by wind, equipment, or cleaning operations. When working in dusty conditions, wear eye protection. Even a small speck in the eye can lead to discomfort and trouble.
2. **Particles Resulting from Chipping, Grinding, Sawing, Brushing, Hammering or Using Power Tools:** These particles move at an amazing speed and can strike with the force of a bullet. Wear eye protection any time over-head operations are performed. It may be advisable on some jobs to wear safety goggles under a full face shield.
3. **Invisible Hazards:** You can't see the injurious light rays generated by welding operations or laser beams. And their effects often are not felt until hours later. Wear the eye protection required when using such equipment, i.e., the proper type and shade of the lens. And if you happen to be working nearby, don't look in the direction of welding arcs or where a construction laser beam is being used. If working outside in a reflective environment, sunglasses may be appropriate.
4. **Liquids:** Hot liquids, such as tar or asphalt, solvents, paint, and solutions for cleaning masonry or metal, can cause serious eye injury if splashed in your face. The use of proper eye protection such as a full face shield, is essential when transferring liquids between containers and when using caustic or acid cleaners. Wet cement in your eyes is a serious situation. Pour or transfer liquids properly and don't place the containers overhead when working. Know the location of eye wash stations and know how to use them.
5. **Physical Hazards:** Watch for physical hazards at eye level. Use rebar caps, caution tape, or relocate protruding objects to a different level.

If you get something in your eye, don't rub. Flush with water or have Health Services take a look.