



Introduction

Eye protection is more important than you may think. It's estimated that 2,000 eye injuries occur on the job daily, however, 90% of these injuries could have been prevented with the proper eye protection and safety measures. While working, you could be exposed to multiple hazards at once. These hazards could include chemicals, foreign bodies, radiation, and surface wounds. Although these hazards are relevant, most eye injuries occur from small flying particles that strike the eye. By learning more about your job and its associated hazards and using the proper eye protection, the risk of eye injury decreases substantially.

Keeping your eyes protected

- Assess areas and situations that could contain possible eye hazards.
- Learn to choose the proper eyewear for each job.
- Protective eyewear should be comfortable and fit well.
- Ensure eyewash stations are easily accessible and in working order, especially around chemicals.
- Additionally, learn the chemicals you work with and their associated hazards.
- In the event of a chemical eye exposure:
 - Reference first aid instructions on the chemical's safety data sheet; and
 - Know the location of the closest eye wash station.

Types and uses of eye protection

Impact resistant safety glasses- Impact resistant glasses comply with the ANSI standard for safety glasses and can withstand the impact of a quarter inch steel ball traveling at 150 feet per second. This type of eye protection provides primary protection against impact.

Goggles- There are many different types of safety goggles that may offer ventilation, protection against chemical splashes and even protect against welding flash. Goggles are generally used in situations with possible chemical hazards.

Face shields- Face shields protect the entire face from hazards like radiation and heat sources and must be used in addition to goggles.

