



### 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, the majority of 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,
    - know first aid instructions on the Safety Data Sheet
    - know location of closest eye wash station

### Types and uses of eye protection

**Impact resistant safety glasses-** this type of eye protection may look similar to your reading glasses, but they offer a different layer of protection. 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 safety glasses provides primary protection against impact.

**Goggles-** there are many different types of safety goggles, they 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.

