

# MAFES Dawg



February 25, 2008

Safety Tips: Eye Protection



Did you know that 1,000 eye injuries occur in the American workplace each day? These injuries result in monetary losses of \$3,000,000 annually including medical, lost production, and workers' compensation costs.

- 3 out of 5 injuries happen because the worker wasn't wearing any eye protection at the time of the accident.
- About 40% of the injured workers were wearing some type of eye protection, but it was the wrong kind and failed to protect adequately. The leading cause in this category is the lack of side shields.
- Accidents studies revealed that flying or falling objects and sparks was the cause in 70% of eye injuries. In 60% of these injuries, the objects causing the injuries were smaller than a pin head.
- Approximately 20% of all eye injuries are caused by eye contact with chemicals, either through splashes or by spraying directly into the eye.
- 40% of eye injuries occur among craft workers, such as mechanics, repair people, carpenters and plumbers. 30% occur among assemblers, sanders, and grinding machine operators.
- 50% of the injury workers were employed in manufacturing, and 20% were employed in construction. No figures were available for agriculture.

- Make sure that your eye protection is the proper type for the job that you will be working on. 94% of eye injuries that occurred to workers wearing the eye protection resulted from objects going under or around the protector.
- Make sure that the eye protection you have chosen fits properly and is clean. One of the main reasons for workers removing the protection is that it gets dirty, and it is hard to see through.
- Use safety glasses with side shields for work in the field for harvesting or where there is the possibility of debris floating or being thrown around.
- Safety goggles – Good for most grinding jobs; or use where abrasives are present. Sometimes they are useful in torch use, but are limited.
- Safety Shields and helmets – These give full face protection and should be used in all welding type activities and heavy cutting or grinding.
- Eye Wash Facility – An eye wash facility should be accessible in the areas of cutting, grinding and welding. If not the self contained type, obtain a wall mounted cabinet with bottles of solution available.  
20% of workers with eye injuries occurred while they were wearing face shields or welding helmets while grinding and 6% of the injuries were from workers wearing goggles.

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Excerpts: [www.cdc/nasd](http://www.cdc/nasd), [www.zenith.com](http://www.zenith.com) 1/18/2008

**OUR EYES ARE PRICELESS!**  
**PROTECTION IS**  
**CHEAP!!!**