



MAFES Dawg Tracks

June 4, 2012



Safety Tips: Eye Injury Prevention



Each year 7,500 eye injuries occur on American farms. These are the recordable injuries - many are hurt, but medically all do not get recorded. These injuries are painful and expensive, sometimes resulting in partial or total blindness, and in many cases result in lost work days.

Human eyes are tough and have certain natural protection, but their natural protection is no match for flying debris, and chemicals.

Eye Injuries can be serious -

- Preserving our eye sight is most important to all of us.
- Our eyes are at a great risk when we fail to protect them from possible injury on the job.
- It only takes a split second to damage our eyes - either temporarily or permanently.
- Common eye hazards in the workplace are:
 - ~small flying objects or particles
 - ~chemical splashes
 - ~harmful gases or vapors
 - ~dust

Tips to Avoid Eye Injuries-

- Be alert to any potential dangers in your area.
- Follow all safety procedures.
- Know which types of protective eyewear will protect you while you're working.
- Wear protective eyewear anytime that there is a doubt that you may be in danger.

Safety Glasses with Side Shields-

- ✓ Safety glasses with side shields will help protect you from small particles possibly thrown from mowing, sanding or grinding.
- ✓ You should wear safety glasses with side shields and a brow guard when working with chemicals. These 2 features will help to protect you from hazards that might enter from the sides or top.
- ✓ Ask your supervisor if the glasses you have are adequate for the type of work that you are into.

Goggles-

- Goggles provide greater protection from liquids, splashes, and dusts than shielded safety glasses.
- Goggles to give the best protection must fit tight on your face.
- Goggles are by far the best protection when you're working around chemicals, pesticides and other volatile materials.
- Always wear goggles when you're:
 - ~riding in an open cab and air spraying pesticides.
 - ~flagging under aerial spraying.
 - ~applying mists, fogs and etc., indoors.

- Regular glasses are no substitute for safety goggles. They offer very little protection from the sides or top.
- If you wear contacts, use safety goggles or a face shield over the top of them for obvious reasons.

Face Shield Protection-

- When working with pesticides in high exposure situations, full face shields are your best/safest option.
- In these same situations, a face shield might not be sufficient, so wearing safety glasses under the shield will give you more protection from dust and possible splashes.

In case of an Accident-

- If you get dust, a wood particle or other small foreign particle in your eye, look down and flush it out with eye wash solution. Use water if no solution is available.
- Immediately get to an eyewash dispenser – call for help if you need to get to the eye wash station.
- Flush your eye with eyewash solution for 15 minutes. Ask someone to call for medical help while you're flushing.
- The MSDS (material safety data sheet) or the pesticide label will also list the first aid instructions for you to follow.

XX

EYE PROTECTION – DO'S & DON'TS

DO:

- ❖ Check the pesticide label to see the type of protective eyewear you should use.
- ❖ Clean dirty lenses and frames.
- ❖ Ask for different protective eyewear if the lenses are scratched or damaged.

DON'T

- ❖ Wear regular glasses instead of goggles or shielded safety glasses.
- ❖ Wait to flush your eyes if you get something in them.
- ❖ Forget to check your pesticide label for first aid instruction.

**WEAR YOUR SAFETY GLASSES
 SO
 YOU WON'T END UP IN THE DARK**

*** **

**~~KEEP YOUR EYE ON
 SAFETY~~**