
Eye safety

Hazards: chemical splash, vapor, biological, struck by- debris, dust.

How do eye injuries happen to workers?

- **Striking or scraping:** Most eye injuries result from small particles or objects striking or scraping the eye, such as: dust, cement chips, metal slivers, and wood chips. These materials are often ejected by tools, windblown, or fall from above a worker. Large objects may also strike the eye or face, or a worker may run into an object causing blunt-force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket.
- **Penetration:** Objects like nails, staples, or slivers of wood or metal can go through the eyeball and result in a permanent loss of vision.
- **Chemical and thermal burns:** Industrial chemicals or cleaning products are common causes of chemical burns to one or both eyes. Thermal burns to the eye also occur, often among welders. These burns routinely damage workers' eyes and surrounding tissue.

How do workers acquire eye diseases?

Eye diseases are often transmitted through the mucous membranes of the eye because of direct exposure to things like blood splashes, and droplets from coughing or sneezing or from touching the eyes with a contaminated finger or object. Eye diseases can result in minor reddening or soreness of the eye or in a life-threatening disease such as HIV, hepatitis B virus, or avian influenza.

What can workers do to prevent eye injury and disease?

Wear personal protective eyewear, such as goggles, face shields, or safety glasses. A PPE Hazard analysis can help determine when such protection is necessary.

The eye protection chosen for specific work situations depends upon the nature and extent of the hazard, the circumstances of exposure, other protective equipment used, and personal vision needs. Eye protection should be fit to an individual or adjustable to provide appropriate coverage. It should be comfortable and allow for sufficient peripheral vision.

Chemical precautions:

- Know what chemicals you are working with and their specific physical and health hazards.
- Know what personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used when working with these materials, including protective devices for the eye.
- A job hazard analysis can provide an evaluation of the potential hazards on the job.

- Check the safety data sheet (SDS) for information about exposure prevention and response procedures.
- Follow proper hazard identification procedures, such as warning signs near hazardous substances.
- Follow all storage and separation requirements, such as keeping acids and bases apart.
- Follow proper container use and labeling requirements.
- Employees must be trained on eye wash station function.

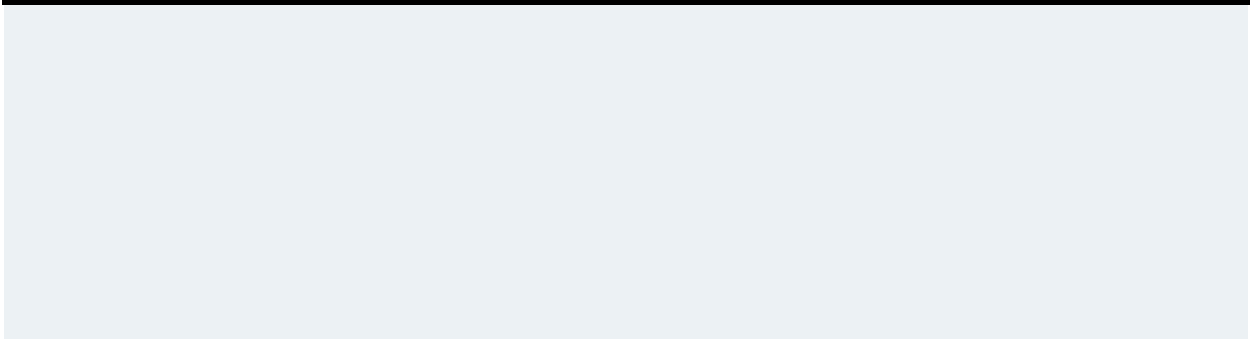
What can employers do to prevent worker eye injury and disease?

Employers can ensure engineering controls are used to reduce eye injuries and to protect against ocular infection exposures. Employers should also conduct a PPE hazard assessment to determine the appropriate type of protective eyewear appropriate for a given task.

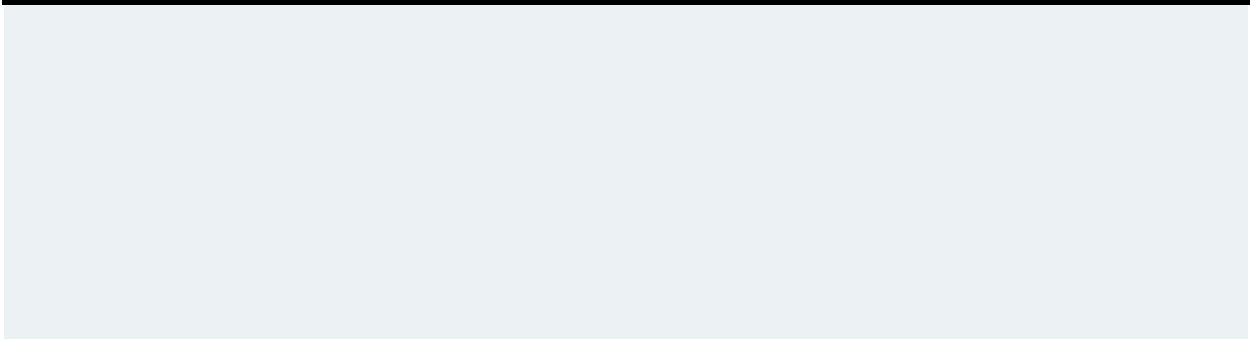
What to do if a foreign object or chemical enters eye?

Emergency Eye Wash Many chemicals, such as acids and bases, are corrosive and can easily damage employees' skin and eyes. The severity of damage depends on how strong the chemical is, how long contact is maintained, and what actions are taken after contact is made. The first 10 – 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous substance are critical. Delaying treatment may cause serious injury. Eye wash stations and bottles provide on-the-spot decontamination, allowing employees to flush away hazardous substances that can cause injury. You should continue flushing until bottle/tank is empty or for at least 15 minutes if it is a plumbed system. Yes, that long! Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Site specific requirements:



Employee participants:



Date:
