



Prevent Injury. Use Protective Eyewear.

In 2004, about 37,000 eye injuries occurred in the workplace that resulted in one or more days away from work.

Many eye injuries caused by workplace hazards can be prevented with proper eyewear to guard against chemical splashes, flying objects, radiation or burns, collision, eyestrain, and infection. Yet, many injuries occur when workers are not wearing the appropriate eye protection for the job, or are not wearing any protection at all.

Create a healthy, vision-safe, working environment. Minimize hazards from falling debris. Put safety features in place such as shields on machines and tools. Be sure workers use tools properly and that tools are in proper working order. Keep bystanders out of work areas. Identify potential hazards such as hanging or protruding objects with caution flags.

Require all employees in hazardous situations to wear appropriate safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or other safety eye protection. Safety glasses or goggles should be worn under face shields and welding helmets. Keep protective eyewear in good condition, and be sure that it fits properly to be comfortable and stay in place.

Eye safety should receive continuing attention in workplace educational programs. Procedures for handling eye injuries should be established and reinforced.

Comprehensive dilated eye examinations can often detect vision problems before they lead to vision loss. They can also help identify vision problems that can interfere with your safety so that they can be corrected. Having sharp vision is important to preventing occupational eye injuries.

Provide emergency sterile eyewash solutions/stations near hazards. Post instructions about what to do and what not to do for particular injuries. For example, rubbing the eyes with debris in them can cause corneal abrasions.

Don't let your workplace be an occupational eye injury statistic. Make vision a health priority.

Reducing occupational eye injury is one of the Healthy Vision 2010 objectives sponsored by the National Eye Institute within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Healthy Vision 2010 is one component of Healthy People 2010, a comprehensive framework for improving the health of our Nation, sponsored by HHS.

For more information on occupational eye injury, visit the Healthy Vision 2010 Website at www.healthyvision2010.org, sponsored by the National Eye Institute (NEI) and the Healthy Vision Consortium.

The NEI conducts and supports research that leads to sight-saving treatment and plays a key role in reducing visual impairment and blindness. The NEI is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.