

TST #122

Protecting Your Eyes

Unlike broken limbs which can usually heal, damage to the eyes can be permanent. Every day, people lose their eyesight as a result of an accident at work, and it usually happens when they are not using proper eye protection. Proper eye protection reduces the chances of injury and reduces the severity of the injury if an accident does occur.

Safety glasses will protect the eyes from:

- Flying objects and particles that may be thrown from equipment with considerable force
- Contaminated material or hazardous liquids, gases and vapors such as hydraulic fluids
- Dusts, powders, fumes that can irritate the eye and mists
- Equipment and other objects such as ropes, tools and tree branches

Eye protection should be used at all times when working. Special eye protection may be required for specific operations such as welding, handling hazardous chemicals and using pneumatic or powder actuated tools. In addition to safety glasses, eyewashes may be provided. These should be used immediately if operators get something in their eye. Eyewashes should be kept clean and available for use at all times, and all employees should know how to properly use the eyewash.

If operators do get a foreign object in their eye, an eye flushing application may be necessary. Operators should not attempt to remove the object if it is not visible or easily accessible. If an attempt is made, hands should be washed and sanitized. If the foreign object cannot be removed or flushed out, the operator should seek medical attention that same day. Scar tissue starts to form within 24 hours, causing additional pain and requiring more treatment.

Though operators often feel they can handle a simple eye injury on their own, they should seek the proper medical treatment if the foreign object is not flushed out immediately. A seemingly minor eye injury, left untreated, can become very serious and end up causing a lot of pain and becoming very expensive and troublesome.

Eyes are a very important part of the body and should be protected wisely. If an operator does not like the eye protection provided, he or she should talk to a manager or supervisor to suggest another product that will work better.

Protecting Your Eyes Quiz

The following statements should be answered with “True” or “False.” Answers below.

1. Special eye protection may be required for specific operations like welding or using pneumatic tools.
2. Proper eye protection can reduce the chance of injury and reduce the severity of an injury if an accident does occur.
3. If a foreign object cannot be removed or flushed out of the eye, you should seek medical attention the same day.
4. Eye protection does not have to be worn at all times while working. Follow the jobsite rules.
5. Safety glasses cannot protect the eyes from flying objects or particles that may be thrown from equipment with force.

Employee Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Answers:

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False