

# Toolbox Safety Topic

## Eye Protection

You would think that the prospect of losing one's eyesight would be so devastating that no worker would ever take a chance with unsafe eye practices. But, sadly, that's not the case. Statistics show that there are about 140,000 disabling eye injuries each year, some resulting in blindness. Unlike a broken arm or leg, blindness cannot be fixed. It's irreversible and expensive. Your whole life will change as a result of it. In addition to the personal pain and suffering of eye injuries, companies spend more than \$300 million a year on serious eye injuries.

What's causing these eye injuries?

1. Flying and falling objects, such as pieces of wood or metal. Almost 70% of eye injuries fall into this category.
2. Hazardous liquid splashes account for approximately 20% of eye injuries.
3. Other sources of eye injuries include glare, heat, and radiation.

Did you know that wearing the right protective eyewear will prevent about 90% of on-the-job eye injuries!

Safety glasses are good for:

- impact
- flying objects
- glare

Safety goggles are good for:

- impact
- flying objects
- splash hazards
- dusty environments
- sparks

Face shields are good for:

- flying debris
- splash hazards

Note: Face shields are not good for impact hazards, which is why you must wear either safety glasses or goggles in addition to the face shield

Welding helmets/cutting goggles are good for:

- flying debris
- heat
- glare
- light radiation

Note: Welding helmets are not good for impact, which is why you must wear your safety glasses in addition to the helmet.

It's critical to know that regular glasses will not protect your eyes adequately. Even shatterproof lenses aren't tough enough to withstand some flying objects. And the frames may not be strong enough to keep the lens from being pushed into the eye. If you require corrective lenses/prescription eyewear, you must have safety prescription eyewear. Safety prescription eyewear consists of shatterproof lenses, impact resistant frames, and side shields. All three components must ANSI approved! Your insurance may cover prescription eyewear, your department may have a policy which reimburses all or part of the expense, or you may have to bear this expense yourself since prescription eyewear is so personal in nature. If you do not have safety prescription eyewear, you should wear safety eyewear over your prescription lenses.

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Eye Protection

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Conducted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attendees

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1		24	
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