



Greater Houston
Chapter

Toolbox Talk

Eye Safety

Company Name _____

Speaker Name/Job Title _____ Date _____

Some 150,000 disabling eye injuries occur each year. Eye injuries can occur in any operation and in any work area, including offices. All too often we take our eyesight for granted and figure that we'll always have it. We treat our eyes as though we can get replacements. How many home runs could Hank Aaron have hit if he had lost the sight in one or both of his eyes? How well would you be able to do your job if you were blind? There are two important issues to consider; ***first, you need to have the proper eye protection, second, you need to USE IT!***

Safety Glasses

- Few of us are mindful when it comes to eye protection, and too often we forget it. Some safety glasses and goggles grow dusty from lack of use as their owners trust luck to protect them from an eye injury.
- The most common complaint about eye protection is that it's uncomfortable. Protective eye equipment must be carefully fitted and then worn correctly. It may take some time to adjust to wearing goggles or safety glasses, but it will take much longer to adjust to losing your eyesight. If your goggles or glasses give you a headache, adjust the frames or straps or consider a new pair.
- Straps used to hold goggles or glasses in place should be adjusted to provide just enough tension to hold them securely.
- During hot weather, a sweatband will keep perspiration off your goggles or glasses and out of your eyes.
- Take time to clean your goggles or glasses so they do not interfere with your vision.
- Don't touch the lenses with your fingers, and keep them away from anything that could scratch or pit them.

Protection from Everyday Work

- Shielding eye protection extends beyond keeping bits of debris out of your eyes.
- If you are working around welding or cutting operations, special lenses may be required to protect your eyes from the bright, intense light.
- Chemicals also pose a hazard to your eyes; make sure you use eye protection and splash guards when handling chemicals. You may need to flush the eyes should they come in contact with the chemical. Emergency first aid procedures are discussed in the Material Safety Sheet for the particular chemical.
- Should a member of your crew get something in their eye, seek proper medical attention right away; the longer it stays in the worse it gets. No one but a professional should attempt to

remove a foreign body from the eye. Cover the eye lightly with a clean pad and either wait for medical help to arrive or take the employee to a doctor.

- Your employer will provide eye and face protection when machines or operations present the potential for eye or face injury. See 29 CFR 1926.102 for more information and a selection guide for proper eye protection.
- Eye protection begins with the ability to recognize times that eye protection is needed, and then, to seriously commit to wear the protection whenever necessary.
- Anytime you're working where there is the potential for flying particles eye protection is required. When using a saw, drill, pouring concrete, chipping, blasting or handling chemicals just to name a few.
- Dirt, dust, rust, rock, bits of concrete, etc. are all potential dangers in construction work.

Further Safety Recommendations by Meeting Attendees

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Meeting Attended By:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____