

August, 2020

# Health & Safety Moment

## Protecting Your Sight

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 2,000 U.S. workers each day have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. Your eyesight is precious, so what can you do to ensure that you protect it?



We need to ask why these injuries are occurring.

Three out of five eye injuries (60%) happen because the worker was not wearing any eye protection at the time of the accident.



Of the remaining 40% of injured workers who were wearing some type of eye protection, the protection was the wrong kind and failed to protect adequately. The leading cause in these cases was the lack of side shields.

Accident studies reveal that flying or falling objects and sparks are the cause in 70% of eye injuries, with most of the objects causing the injury being smaller than a pin head. Also, nearly 20% of all eye injuries are caused by contact with chemicals. This includes splashing or chemicals being sprayed directly into the eye.

(Con't)

**The number one thing** is to always wear appropriate eye protection in any situation where there is a risk of eye injury occurring. Operations that present eye hazards include:

Grinding, spraying, sanding, chiseling, woodworking or any other activity that might cause large fragments or small particles to fly through the air and into the eyes.

Painting, spraying, sanding, metalworking, weed or grass cutting or any process that may cause dust, fumes or tiny particulates to become airborne where they can contact the eyes.

Operations such as handling acids and caustics or other chemicals where splashing into the eyes can occur.

**The second thing** is to select eye protection that is appropriate to the task, such as:

- Make sure that the safety eyewear has “ANSI Z87+” marked on the frame or in some cases the lens.
- Wherever there is a potential exposure to the eyes from splashes of hazardous liquids, the worker should wear goggles, which form a seal around the entire eye to prevent objects from entering under or around the goggles. Goggles which are appropriate for protection from splashes/droplets will be marked with “D3” in accordance with the ANSI standard.
- If there is a risk of small particulates entering the eyes, goggles should be worn that are marked with “D4” for dust and “D5” for fine dust.

**Never take chances with your vision.  
Choose the best protection, make sure it fits,  
keep it clean and always wear it.**

## Your Health Is Our Top Priority

Thank you to our dedicated ReWa team and all public service professionals for your continued commitment to our communities.

