

Eye Protection Works

It is estimated that 90% of eye injuries can be prevented through the use of proper eyewear. Here are 10 ways that you can help prevent an eye injury in your workplace:

1. **Assess** – Look carefully at operations. Inspect all work areas and equipment for hazards to eyes. Study eye accident and injury reports
2. **Test** – Uncorrected vision problems can cause accidents. Provide vision testing during routine employee physical exams.
3. **Protect** – Select protective eyewear that is designed for specific hazards. Protective eyewear must meet the current standards from the OSHA 1970 and later revisions.
4. **Participate** – Create a 100% mandatory program for eye protection in all operations of your plant instead of one that limits eye protection to certain departments, areas or jobs.
5. **Fit** – Workers need protective eyewear that fits well and is comfortable. Have eyewear fitted by an eye care professional or someone trained to do this. Provide repairs for eyewear and require each worker to be in charge of his or her own gear.
6. **Plan for an Emergency** – Set up first aid procedures for eye injuries. Have eyewash stations that are easy to get to, especially where chemicals are used. Train workers in basic first aid and identify those with more advanced training.
7. **Educate** – Conduct ongoing educational programs to create, keep up and highlight the need for protective eyewear. Add eye safety to your regular employee training programs and to new employee orientation
8. **Support** – Management support is key to having a successful eye safety program. Management can show support for the program by wearing protective eyewear whenever and wherever needed.
9. **Review** – Regularly review and update your accident policies. Your goal should be NO eye injuries or accidents.
10. **Put in Writing** – Once your safety program is created, put it in writing. Display a copy of the policy in work and employee gathering areas.

Remember to practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

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Information for this Safety Topic was provided by Prevent Blindness America, The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation.

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