

MAY Safety Talk

Topic: Eye and Face Protection

Protecting the eyes and face from hazards is extremely important, considering all of the organs and soft tissue in the area. For example, a projectile to the eye not only damages the eye, but potentially the ligaments and muscles that move it, and in some cases, the brain.

Serious injuries can occur very quickly and it's important to choose the proper protective equipment for the task. Always make sure PPE is properly rated for the job, fits properly, and doesn't obstruct the view.

Causes of Eye and Face Injuries

- Splashes from acids, cleaning solutions and other harmful liquid chemicals
- Flying debris, chips and dust from grinding and windy conditions
- Flying projectiles from objects colliding, falling or being dumped
- Loose straps, cords or banding that breaks or snaps under tension
- Extreme heat and light from exposed flames, welding, torches or the sun

Types of Personal Protective Equipment

- **Face shields:** protect the face from flying projectiles, grinding debris and chemical splashes (or dog excrement if weed-eating a Park!). Will not protect the eyes under the shield from small particles or chemicals.
- **Safety goggles:** enclose the whole area around the eyes to help prevent debris when sanding or blowing dirt and debris. Will protect from chemical fumes if the sides are closed in (not vented).
- **Safety glasses and side shields:** Provide some protection against airborne particles and projectiles and are made of impact resistant material. May contain UV protection (i.e. safety sunglasses).
- **Welding masks, dark shields and torch glasses** can help protect the eyes and face from flash burns and over-exposure to light.

