## Eye Injuries and Prevention Stats & Facts



## **FACTS**

- 1. Eye injuries are still very common in the workplace
- 2. Eye protection is more than just safety glasses
- 3. Safety eyewear must meet the ansi z87 guidelines
- 4. Contact lenses may present additional hazards to employees
- 5. In most cases, employers are not required to cover the cost of prescription eyewear
- 6. Detachable side shields are deemed acceptable by osha
- 7. Most eye injuries result from objects striking or scraping the eye
- 8. Burns and penetrating objects are also sources of eye injuries
- 9. Osha has specific shade requirements for various types of radiant energy work
- 10. Emergency eyewash stations must meet specific design and installation requirements

## **STATS**

- Over 2,000 work-related eye injuries happen each year in North America.
- 60% of workers who suffered an eye injury were wearing no eye protection or the wrong type of eye protection at the time of the accident.
- 90% of work-related eye injuries could be avoided if workers wore eye protection. (American Academy of Opthalmology)
- Men between the ages of 25-44 comprise 80 % of all workplace eye injury victims.
- Eye injuries account for nearly 45% of all head injuries that lead to missed work days.
- 61% of eye injuries occur in manufacturing, construction or trade jobs.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates each day 1,000 employees receive injuries to their eyes.

- Nearly three out of five were not wearing eye protection.
- Flying objects or sparks caused 70 percent of incidents. Three-fifths of the objects were smaller than a pinhead.
- Chemicals caused one-fifth of the eye injuries.
- Other injuries include objects swinging from a fixed position or tools hitting the worker's eye.