



MSA Safety Talk for Eye Protection

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site.

How many of you here have ever had to go to a doctor or emergency to have something removed from your eye or had to use the eyewash station to flush something from your eye? If, for any reason, you lost your vision, your livelihood would be gone as well as your freedom and independence. All of the other simple pleasures in life that you are able to see now would be gone.

What are some of the hazards inherent to the work you do, that would create a need for eye protection?

- ✓ Sparks or slag being chipped during welding processes.
- ✓ Dust, solvents and other flying particles from drying parts with compressed air after cleaning or just blowing out an area for diagnosis/troubleshooting before repair.
- ✓ Dirt, chaff or grain falling when you are under a machine, or remove a guard, or open a compartment.
- ✓ Possible airborne contaminants from other workers. (Sneezing, coughing)
- ✓ Splashes from chemicals. (coolant, oil, penetrating oil, fuel, paints, solvents or cleaners)
- ✓ Wind-blown dirt and dust (environmental hazards).
- ✓ Splash-back when steaming or pressure washing a machine. (Recommend face-shield and/or goggles)
- ✓ There is a risk of flying particles every time we take out a pair of side-cutters, a hammer and punch or chisel, or any tool that is driven by a cordless battery, electricity, hydraulics or compressed air.
- ✓ Radiation from the sun or welding arc.
- ✓ Tool/fastener breakage.

These are only a few of the hazards that have risk of eye injury involved. Safety glasses themselves may not always be the answer. Whenever grinding, it is required to use a face-shield and safety glasses/goggles to ensure your best protection. You should know the best way to protect yourself just as well as you know the best method to diagnose or repair a machine or component. If you have any questions about how to protect yourself, talk to your **Supervisor** or your company's **Safety Specialist/OH Committee members**.

Choose Your Eye Protection and Maintain It

Your safety glasses must be "CSA approved", fit you well, and not leave any large openings for particles or debris to enter. (Rule of thumb is that you should not be able to fit a pencil eraser between the edge of your glasses and your face in any spot around the glasses)

Keep your eye protection clean! In summer with sweating and fogging, this may mean removing your glasses and cleaning them more often. In winter, be aware that your glasses will fog up immediately after walking into a warm area from outside in the cold. If you can, remove yourself from any hazardous areas while your glasses are not in place during cleaning, but remain aware of the risk from other workers and environmental hazards. When not in use, keep your eye protection somewhere where it won't get dirty or damaged (ZipLoc). If your eye protection is damaged or hard to see through from scratching, etc., **REPLACE IT.**

Toolbox Attendance

Questions? _____

Concerns? _____

Days since Last Incident: _____

Supervisor/Meeting Leader: _____ Date: _____

Signatures of attendees:

Manager review comments:

Manager signature: _____ Date of Review: _____