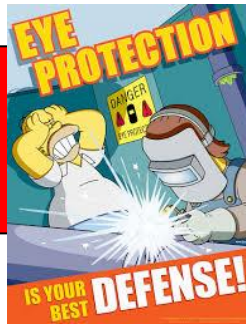


TOOLBOX TALK NO.22

Eye Protection



On average around 1000 accidents occur to people's eyes every day. 75% by impact, 10% by ingress of foreign bodies (dust) and 15% by burns or chemicals. The majority of these could have been prevented by the use of the correct eye wear or just simply, by wearing eye protection. The loss of sight, even in one eye, will have a profound effect on the sufferer and is likely to affect future job prospects and earning potential.

Think of some excuse you have used (or heard others use) for not wearing your eye protection: they are not comfortable; they are dirty; they fogged up, you were going to be doing a hazardous task for just a few seconds and did not want to stop and put them on . . .

While you may think some or all of these excuses sound like good reasons for not wearing your safety glasses or goggles at work, consider what could happen if an accident occurred and injured one or both of your eyes. Is it worth risking blindness, or even injury, for any one of those reasons? Absolutely not!

Possible causes of eye injury

- Using hammers, chisels or other percussive tools. (Yes, eye protection should/MUST be worn, even when using a hammer).
- The use of compressed air or any other liquid or gas under pressure.
- Working with abrasive materials where debris may be given off at speed – such as an angle grinder.
- Work with any tool which results in chippings being broken off – such as breakers.
- When welding any item where ultra violet light is given off.
- Handling or coming in to contact with corrosive or irritant substances such as acids.
- Handling and use of cartridge operated tools.
- Cutting wire or metal strapping under tension.

Wearing Eye Protection

- You have a legal duty to wear eye protection provided in accordance with any risk assessment or employers instructions. The place for eye protection is over your eyes, not in your pocket or on top of your head.
- Ensure that eye protection issued fits and is fit for use.
- Take care of any eye protection issued to you.
- Ensure that any damaged eye protection is replaced immediately. Don't work without them.
- There are different grades of eye protection for different jobs. Use the correct type for the correct job. Refer to the work activity RAMS
- All eye protection must carry the CE marks to show it is made to the required standards.
- Tiny fragment in your eye can cause disaster.
- You need trained first-aid for attention to eyes – not a dirty handkerchief.
- Do not watch welding processes unless your eyes are properly protected.
- Do not go into areas where eye protection is required unless you are wearing protective equipment.

Remember - eye protectors are replaceable – your eyes are not.

Questions:

What must you ensure on being issued eye protection?

If you get something in your eye, what must you do?

What sort of goggles must you wear when using an angle grinder?

Answer: Goggles with all round protection. (BS EN 166.1.B or BS EN 166.1.A dependant on the speed of the tool. DO NOT use BS EN 166.1.F for grinding work under any circumstances