California Schools JPA℠

SAFETY MATTERS

RISK MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE **MARCH 15, 2024**

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EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

OBJECTIVE To help supervisors/managers learn about the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for eye and face protection.

Employer Requirements for Eye Protection

Cal/OSHA (§3382) requires employers to provide the appropriate eye or face protection when working or interacting in locations where there is a risk of receiving eye injuries (i.e., chemical, biological, projectiles, springs, etc.).

Teachers, faculty, staff, and administrators, need to select eyewear that provides themselves, their students, other employees, and visitors with the most suitable protection for the hazards they may encounter in the classroom, laboratory, field site or worksite. Eye and face requirements may be identified through conducting a hazard analysis, reviewing safety data sheets, and manufacture provided instructions.

Protecting the eyes and face from hazards is extremely important considering 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. Furthermore, lacerations to the face can damage muscle tissue and leave life-long scars.

Always make sure PPE is properly rated for the job, fits properly, and doesn't obstruct your view. Safety glasses/goggles and similar eye and face protection devices need to have the minimum ANSI 287.1 rating stamped on them to be approved for use.

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Causes of Eye and Face Injuries

- Splashes from harmful liquid chemicals such as acids or cleaning solutions
- 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 extreme tension
- Extreme heat and light radiation from exposure to flames or welding torches

Types of Eye and Face Protection

Some safety goggles and other eye protection items can thwart flying particles and chemical hazards, whereas others only protect against particles. Selecting the appropriate eye and face protection is crucial and should consider the following:

- Ability to protect against specific workplace hazards
- Should fit properly and be reasonably comfortable to wear
- Should provide unrestricted vision and movement
- Should be durable and cleanable
- Should allow unrestricted functioning of any other required PPE
- Safety Goggles: Enclose the area around the eyes to provide the highest protection against airborne particles, flying projectiles and splash hazards.
- Safety Glasses with Side Shields: Provide protection against airborne particles and flying projectiles. Safety glasses are made of impact resistant material, and many are available with UV protection and/or tinted lenses.
- Prescription Safety Glasses: Eyeglasses are never a substitute for safety glasses or safety goggles. To be protected, wear safety glasses that fit over top of your prescription glasses or have prescription safety glasses made for you.
- Weld Masks, Dark Shields, and Torch Glasses: Protect the eyes and face from flying sparks, flash burns, and the intense light that occur during welding, torching, and brazing operations. It is important to match the type and tint of the shade to the welding performed.

- Face Shields: Protect the face from grinding debris, flying projectiles, radiant heat and protect against potential splashes or sprays of hazardous liquids. Face shields should be used in conjunction with eye protection to be fully protected.

RESOURCES:

Infographic of Eye Face Covering

OSHA - Eye and Face Protection

This California Schools JPA fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.