Lab Manager

Proper Eye Protection

**Given the economical cost, performance and myriad styles of todays safety eyewear, there is no excuse for not wearing proper eye protection.**

October 07, 2010

*A researcher did not wear eye protection and got fragments of glass in his eye which scratched his cornea later resulting in a corneal ulcer. The fragments of glass which got in his eye originated from the researching snapping the glass of open-ended capillary tubues while making the TLC spotter.*

*Several other people in the area who performed the same operation and did not wear safety glasses nor work behind safety screens.1*

Do either you or your workers realize that even “minor” eye injuries can cause long-term vision problems and suffering? That corneal scratch mentioned above, for example, can lead to corneal erosion and a lifetime of recurring pain.

Industrial hygienists are trained to deal with occupational hazards in a basic three-step process: Recognition, Evaluation and Control.

Engineering controls include shielding or guards to prevent particles and splashes being dispersed, and fume hoods or local exhaust ventilation to contain dust, particles and vapors.

No matter the type or style of eye protection, workers should always wear equipment that meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z87.1-2010.

Polycarbonate lens safety glasses are the most prevalent type of eye protection.

Bifocal safety glasses have become a large market and offerings now include contemporary stylish designs.

Our eyes are very susceptible to injuries that can lead to either long-term problems or a permanent disability. There is no excuse for not wearing proper eye protection.

**References**

1. *Occupational Health and Safety Hazard Alert - Eye Injury from a Shattering Pasteur Pipette*, Monash University, Victoria, Australia. May 2008. <http://www.adm.monash.edu/ohse/documents/hazard-alerts/eye-injurypipette>. html

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