



As a part of the Forging Industry Association (FIA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Alliance efforts in reducing the workplace injuries and illnesses, OSHA and FIA are jointly developing a series of Safety Tip Sheets. This Safety Tip Sheet addresses the steps that can be taken to reduce the number of eye injuries that can occur each year in the Forging Industry.

FIA Safety Tips Sheet No 1: Help Prevent Eye Injuries

In 2005 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported 34,740 eye injuries involving days away from work. In the OSHA Fact Sheet, *EYE PROTECTION IN THE WORKPLACE*, it is noted that approximately 90% of eye injuries can be prevented through the use of proper protective eyewear. Working together, OSHA, FIA, and employees, can reduce the number of eye injuries in the Forging Industry. The following information is provided for use by employees in protecting themselves from the hazards that can cause potential eye injuries.

Activities/Tasks that may cause eye injuries:

- Grinding
- Sanding
- Machining
- Mixing Chemicals
- Chipping
- Furnace operations (such as pouring, casting, and hot dipping)
- Drilling
- Use of compressed air for cleaning
- Welding, cutting, and brazing
- And other similar activities that may produce flying particles and radiant heat, and cause chemical splashing

Eye Injuries can be caused by:

- Impact (Chipping, grinding, drilling, etc.)
- Heat (Furnace operations)
- Chemicals (Mixing or handling chemicals)
- Light and/or Radiation (Welding, cutting, brazing, etc.)

Types of Eye and Face Protectors:

- Safety glasses
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Welding Helmets

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Help Prevent Eye Injuries

- **Review job hazard analysis and safety procedures before performing a task.**
- **Ensure that the proper type of eye protective equipment is available for the job involved. (Consult with the Safety and Health Department and/or your supervisor, if any questions).**
- **Ensure that machine guards are properly affixed to the machines before starting**
- **Care should be taken to recognize the multiple and simultaneous exposure to a variety of hazards.**
- **Always use the right type of eye protective equipment. (Verify appropriate ANSI “Z 87.1” marking on the protective equipment, including on lenses and frame).**
- **Make sure that side shields are present on safety glasses.**
- **Make sure that the eye wear fits properly and lenses are clean and clear.**
- **Face shields shall only be worn over primary eye protection (safety glasses or goggles).**
- **When vision requires the use of prescription lenses, employees shall wear eye protective equipment that incorporates prescription in its design.**
- **Use appropriate filter lenses for protection against radiant energy. Filter lenses must meet the shade designation requirements. Shaded or tinted lenses are not filter lenses, unless they are marked or identified as such.**
- **Undergo routine eye exams to ensure proper vision.**
- **Know the location of the nearest eye wash station.**
- **Keep the first-aid/emergency telephone number handy.**
- **Report any eye injury to your supervisor.**
- **Encourage other employees to wear proper eye protection.**

Protect Your Eyes Now....See for a Lifetime!!!!

Please refer to OSHA Standards:

- 29 CFR 1910.132 - General requirements: A hazard assessment and training must be conducted;
- 29 CFR 1910.133 - Eye and face protection.

Through OSHA's Alliance Program, this Safety Alert was developed through the OSHA & Forging Industry Association Alliance for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.