

Protecting Your Eyes

Not Convinced?

- A 40-year-old man suffered extreme chemical burns when battery acid sprayed into his unprotected face.
- A 35-year-old man hit a nail while cutting wood. It entered his eye and had three major operations to restore his eyesight.
- A 42-year-old man mixing cement splashed it into his eyes, causing chemical burns and loss of eyesight.

Each year almost 100,000 Americans lose sight in one or both eyes from accidents at work. Nationwide, work-related eye injuries cost over \$133 million a year in lost production, medical expenses and workers' compensation according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



90% of all eye injuries can be prevented



It's up to YOU!

Potential Eye Hazards

- **Projectiles** - Dust, concrete, metal, wood and other particles.
- **Chemicals** - Splashes and fumes.
- **Radiation** - Especially visible light, ultraviolet radiation, heat or infrared radiation, and lasers.
- **Bloodborne Pathogens** - Blood or body fluids.

High Risk Occupations

- **Construction**
- **Maintenance**
- **Auto Repair**
- **Electrical Workers**
- **Welding**
- **Plumbing**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Mining**
- **Carpentry**

Safety Meeting Resources

Keyword: Eye Safety

PureSafety Course: Personal Protective Equipment *Protecting your Eyes*

www.aoa.org (American Optometric Association)

www.uic.edu (Illinois Medical Center)

Research your topic and use these simple questions and steps to get your safety meeting off on the right foot!

1. Why is this topic important?
2. How does it affect me and my co-workers?
3. What are the potential eye hazards at work?
4. How can you protect your eyes from injury?
5. What should be done in an eye emergency?