

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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*Safety Tips: Face & Eye Protection*



Little do we know or consciously think about face and eye protection. So much of the time the work that we do has underlying currents of potential injury to our face and/or eyes. We sort of take this protection for granted, but many things can happen that potentially could cause us serious problems if we don't take eye/face protection more seriously. In agricultural work, we are exposed to many different potential hazards from sparks in the shop to debris from combines and tractors during planting and harvest season; and there is always the threat of pesticide or chemical splashes without covering our face and eyes with protective equipment.

## REASONS FOR PROTECTION-

- 3 out of 5 workers who suffer face and eye injuries on the job **weren't wearing any face or eye protection.**
- 2 out of 5 workers who suffer face and eye injuries on the job while wearing face or eye protection got hurt because they were wearing the **wrong kind of protection.**
- Daily in the USA about 2,000 workers have job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment. Approximately 100 lose one or more days of work.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR EYE/FACE PROTECTION-

OSHA's Eye/Face Protection standard says that employees that are exposed to light radiation, chemicals or flying objects must be provided with eye/face protection. They also have a standard for selecting the correct type of protection. However, these standards are frequently violated. OSHA established the following tips that are designed to help comply with the standard and protect employees:

- **Provide Side Protection-** Eye protection must defend all angles of attack. One can be exposed to all types of flying debris, sparks or metal trash in a maintenance shop. The regulations states that if the eye protection meets the standard for lenses then clip on side-to-side protection can be used.
- **Ensure Compatibility with Prescription Eyewear-** Some employees need corrective lens prescriptions. The protective eyewear of these employees must also comply with this lens: (2 options)  
~ Incorporate the employee's prescription into the lens of the eye protection equipment –  
**OR**  
~ Supply eye protection equipment to be worn over the prescription eyewear.  
If you supply eye protection eyewear, make sure that the prescription lens are compatible and do not obstruct the positioning or functioning of the other.
- **Verify that Filtered Lenses Have the Right Shade Number-** Certain operations, such as welding, require the use of filtered lenses to shield the eyes against potentially harmful light radiation. OSHA provides a list of these operations and the appropriate "shade number" filter required in the equipment when performing each operation. Check this list to be sure.

- **Make Sure Protective Eyewear is Marked-** OSHA requires that eye and face protection equipment be marked so that the manufacturer is easily identifiable. This allows the protection to be quickly recognized as meeting certain standards.
- **Make Sure Eye Protection Meets ANSI Standards-** Eye or face protection bought after July 5, 1994 must meet the American National Standard Institute's (ANSI) standard ANSI Z87.1-1989. Before buying eye and face protective equipment, check the standard, entitled "American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection." Make sure the equipment is up to standard.

## 4 MOST COMMON TYPES OF EYE/FACE PROTECTION-

- ✓ **Safety glasses** – The frames are usually metal or plastic with impact-resistant lenses and sometimes side shields. These protect the eyes from flying objects, sparks and dust.
- ✓ **Goggles** – They completely cover the eyes, eye socket, and facial area around them.
  - Protects the eyes from impact, dust and splashes.
  - May come with shaded lenses.
- ✓ **Welding Shields** – Welding shields are made of vulcanized fiber or fiberglass and are fitted with filtered lenses that must be of a shade number necessary to protect against the particular hazard. They serve 2 purposes:
  - Protect the eyes from burns caused by intense light.
  - Protect the eyes & face from flying sparks, metal splatter and slag chips from welding, brazing, soldering and cutting operations.
- ✓ **Face Shields** – Face shields are transparent plastic sheets that extend from the eyebrows to below the chin and across the entire width of the head and may be polarized to protect against glare.

## DOs & DON'Ts of FACE PROTECTION-

### DO-

- *Clean your face protection regularly following company/manufacturer's instructions.*
- *Inspect your face protection before each use.*
- *Ensure that face/welding shields are disinfected regularly.*
- *Make sure that you actually use the face protection.*

### DON'T-

- ❖ Use scratched goggles, ones that don't fit right or if the elastic band is frayed.
- ❖ Use safety glasses, if they are scratched, bent or don't fit.
- ❖ Use face protection that's not designed to protect you from the hazard that you will encounter on this job.
- ❖ Use face protection equipment if it doesn't fit right, obstructs your movement or blocks your vision.

***FLYING OBJECTS CAN BE BRUTAL-  
IF YOU DONT PROTECT YOUR NOODLE  
PROTECT YOUR EYES –SO THAT  
YOU DON'T END UP IN THE DARK!***