

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND  
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Safety Tips: Prevent Eye  
Injuries on the Job*

Each day an estimated 2,000 U.S. workers experience some type of on-the-job eye injury. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that these injuries cost an estimated amount of \$924 million per year in workers' compensation payments and \$4 billion per year in wage and productivity losses. The study also revealed that three out of every five workers were not wearing any eye protection. Also, 70% of the injuries were the result of falling or flying objects.

In our scheme of work, we have experienced several eye injury cases, covered under workers' compensation. These injuries fall in the category mentioned above, such as dust or crop particles and metal scrap in the maintenance shops. As mentioned above, some of the cases resulted from no eye protection or insufficient type of eye protection.

Based on the facts above is proof positive that we need to take extra precaution to protect our eyes. I can vouch for that first-hand with personal experience with my best buddy, which also is my spouse.

## ***EYE INJURIES CAN BE SERIOUS-***

- ✓ Preserving our eyesight is most important.
- ✓ We carelessly put our eyes in harm's way when we don't protect them.
- ✓ It only takes a second to have an injury to our eyes, whether it is temporary or permanent. (Hopefully, there won't be any permanent injuries).

## ***COMMON EYE HAZARDS-***

- ✓ Small flying or falling particles of foreign objects.
- ✓ Chemical splashes
- ✓ Harmful gases or vapors
- ✓ Dusts

## ***EYE PROTECTION SAFETY TIPS-***

- ✓ Be alert to potential dangers around you.
- ✓ Follow all safety procedures.
- ✓ Know which types of eyewear will protect you while working.
- ✓ Wear protective eyewear anytime there is a potential for eye injury.

## ***TYPES OF EQUIPMENT FOR EYE PROTECTION-***

### ***Safety Glasses with Side shields-***

- Safety glasses with side shields will help protect your eyes when you're grinding, sanding, mowing or whenever there is a chance of getting small objects in your eyes.
- You should wear eye glasses when you're working with liquid pesticides. Be sure the glasses have side shields and brow guard.
- Brow guard and side shields will give you protection from the top and sides.
- Ask your supervisor if you are uncertain about which type of eyeglasses you may need for the work you are about to do.

## **Goggles-**

- Goggles offer greater protection from liquids, chemical splashes and dusts.
- It is important to make sure that they fit your face with a good seal around the lenses.
- Goggles offer the best protection for liquid chemicals and other toxic chemicals.
- You should wear either goggles or a full-face respirator when you:
  - ~ Ride in an open cab during an air blast application
  - ~ Flag under an aerial application
  - ~ Apply fogs, mists or aerosol applications indoor.
  - ~ The pesticide label will tell you whether you should wear goggles or not.

## **Face Shields-**

- At times when you might be working in high exposure situations, a face shield would be advantageous for this application.
- A face shield isn't enough to protect your eyes, so you should wear glasses or goggles for added protection from dusts and vapors.

## **TIPS FOR ACCIDENT TREATMENT-**

- ✓ If you get a wood chip, dust particle or another small object in your eye – look down and flush it out with eye wash solution. If eye solution isn't available use water.
- ✓ If you get pesticide in your eye, immediately get to an eye wash dispenser or call for help if you need assistance to get to an eye wash station.
- ✓ Flush your eyes with eye wash solution for 15 minutes. Have someone to call for medical help while you are flushing.
- ✓ The material safety data sheet will also give you first aid instructions that you should always refer to.

## **DO'S & DON'TS FOR EYE PROTECTION\*\***

### **DO:**

- Check the pesticide label to find out the type of eye wear to use.
- Clean dirty frames and lenses.
- Ask for different protective eyewear if the lenses are scratched or damaged.

### **DON'T:**

- Wear regular glasses instead of goggles or shielded safety glasses.
- Wait to begin flushing your eyes if something gets in them.
- Forget to check your pesticide label for first aid instructions.

***SAFETY GLASSES: ALL IN FAVOR SAY  
"EYE!"  
EYE PROTECTION > CLEARLY THE  
RIGHT CHOICE***