

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Safety Tips:
Face & Eye Protection

Face and eye protection is taken lightly at times. However, it has potentially very harmful effects if we aren't very careful.

In agricultural work, we are exposed to many different and potential hazards, especially if the worker fails to wear protective eye and/or face protection: from sparks from welding equipment to trash from grain residue, or pesticide splashes. In my opinion, this happens quite frequently, not so much in shop work, but in field work.

REASONS FOR PROTECTION-

- ✓ Three out of five workers suffer face and eye injuries on the job because they **weren't wearing any face or eye protection.**
- ✓ Two out of five workers who suffer face and eye injuries on the job while wearing face or eye protection got hurt because they were **wearing the wrong type of protection.**
- ✓ Each day in the USA about 2,000 workers have job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment. Approximately 100 lose one to two days of work.

SAFETY TIPS FOR EYE/FACE PROTECTION-

OSHA'S eye/face protection standard states that employees that are exposed to light radiation, chemicals, or flying objects must be provided with eye/face protection. However, these standards are frequently violated. **OSHA** established the following tips that are designed to help comply with the standard to 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 regulation states that if the eye protection meets the standard for lenses that 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 be compatible with this lens with two 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 lenses 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 that Protective Eyewear is Marked-** **OSHA** requires that eye and face protective equipment be marked so that the manufacturer is easy 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 ANSIZ87.1-1989. Before buying eye and face protection equipment, check the standard entitled "American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection." Make sure that the equipment is up to standard.

FOUR 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. They protect the eyes from impact, dust, and splashes, and may come with shaded lenses.
- ✓ **Welding Shields** – Welding shields are made from 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 two purposes:
~Protect the eyes from burns caused by intense light.
~Protect the eye and 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.

DO'S & 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 goggles that are scratched, don't fit right, or have frayed elastic bands.

~Use safety glasses that are scratched, bent, or don't fit.

~Use face protection that is not designed to protect you from the hazard that you will encounter on the 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 DON'T PROTECT YOUR
NOODLE!!**

**PROTECT YOUR EYES SO YOU
DON'T END UP IN THE DARK!!!**

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Excerpts: www.safetyxchange.org

<http://compliance.safetysmart.com>

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