

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Safety Glasses

One of the most common pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) that is needed for a job is safety glasses. Standard 29CFR 1910.133 states that, "The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation ... Protective eye and face protection devices must comply with any of the following consensus standards: ANSI/ISEA Z87.1"

Safety glasses have come a long way in the last several years. A variety of styles, tints, and lens types are available to fit you and conditions of the job. The following contrasts the benefits of each lens type available:

Glass Lenses –

- Not easily scratched
- Can be used around harsh chemicals
- Can be made in your corrective prescription
- Sometimes heavy & uncomfortable

Plastic Lenses –

- Lighter in weight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Not likely to fog
- Not as scratch-resistant as glass

Polycarbonate Lenses –

- Lightweight
- Protect against welding splatter
- Not likely to fog
- Stronger than glass & plastic
- More impact-resistant
- Not as scratch-resistant as glass

Glasses that fog in higher temperatures or during labor-intensive work decrease the employee's use of eyewear. **Anti-fog glasses and anti-fog solutions/wipes** have been shown to significantly improve performance, resulting in increased eye protection use.

Dollar store sunglasses should not be worn in place of safety glasses. True safety glasses that are approved for use will have **Z87.1 marked on the ear piece**. These are made with shatter-resistant lenses to protect the eye from flying debris. Although safety lenses may be constructed from a number of materials with various impact resistances, testing standards require that they maintain a minimum thickness at the thinnest point, regardless of material.

Do you have an easily accessible supply of safety glasses? Keeping them in the shop, office, or work truck it will increase employee usage. Let your employees have a choice on comfort, fit, & style.

But if there is an accident, follow these steps for

Eye Injury First Aid:

Specks in the Eye - Don't rub the affected eye.

Flush the eye with lots of water. See a doctor if the speck doesn't wash out, or if pain or redness continues.

Cuts, Punctures, and Foreign Objects in the Eye -

Unlike with specks of dust or metal, be sure not to wash out the affected eye. Don't try to remove a foreign object stuck in the eye. Seek immediate medical attention.

Chemical Burns - Immediately flush the eye with water or drinkable liquid. Open the eye as wide as possible. Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes, even on your way to seeking medical care. If a contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately. Flushing may dislodge the lens. Seek immediate medical attention.

Blows to the Eye - Apply a cold compress without pressure, or tape crushed ice in a plastic bag to the forehead and allow it to rest gently on the injured eye. Seek immediate medical attention if pain continues, if you have reduced vision, or if blood or discoloration appears in the eye.

For more info contact – Leslie Woolington
MAFES /MSU-EXTENSION
Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control
(662) 325-3204

Sources:
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