

Introduction

The risk of eye injury at work must not be overlooked. Eye injury can affect the vision and even lead to blindness in severe cases. Thus both employers and employees should take appropriate preventive measures to avoid eye injury.

Common causes of eye injury at work

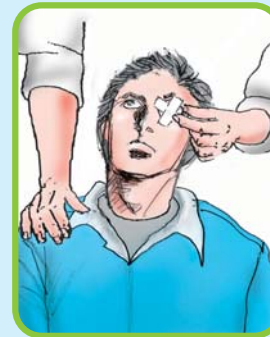
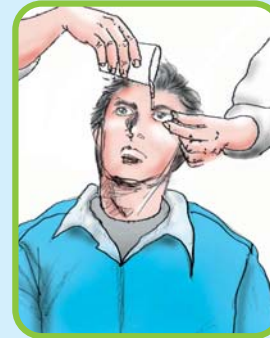
1. Injury by flying objects e.g. flying chips produced in cutting work.
2. Contusion by objects.
3. Contact with chemicals, such as corrosive liquid or gas, causing burns and eye injuries.
4. Exposure to hazardous rays (e.g. laser, ionizing radiation, ultra-violet rays) may lead to eye diseases such as heat cataract and photo-keratoconjunctivitis.



How to manage eye injury?

If the eye is accidentally injured by foreign objects or chemicals, keep calm and treat the wound as soon as possible.

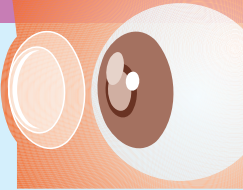
1. Don't rub the eye, or else the cornea may be damaged. Flush the eye immediately with copious amount of clean water for about 15 minutes in order to remove the foreign objects or to dilute the chemicals.
2. Cover the eye loosely with a clean and soft dressing, and reduce eye movement to avoid further damage.
3. After the initial treatment, transfer the victim to hospital immediately for further management.



If the eye is hit by hard objects, it should be pressed lightly by a cold towel to reduce pain and swelling. The victim should also be transferred to hospital immediately for further management.

Notes for those wearing contact lenses

If the victim wears contact lenses, no attempt should be made to remove them before flushing the eyes with clean water, so as to avoid further damage to the eyes. The contact lenses will usually be flushed out by running water. If the contact lenses stay in the eyes, let the medical staff handle the case.



How to prevent eye injury?

Most of the eye injuries can be avoided if employers and employees work closely together in taking preventive measures.

1 Provide a safe working environment and protective equipment

2 Provide proper training on eye protection for employees

3 Wear suitable eye protectors

Employees should use the eye protectors appropriately and they should report to employers immediately for any loss, damage or any other problems of the eye protectors.



Choosing suitable eye protectors

Safety glasses

Protect eyes from injury by flying chips or foreign objects



Safety goggles

Apart from protecting the eyes from injury by flying chips or foreign objects, they can also protect the eyes from dust or smoke.

Face shield

Protect the eyes from contusion by objects as well as from splattering of chemicals and molten metal into the eyes. It also provides protection to the face.



Goggles, face shield and hand-held visor with special filtering function

Protect eyes from injury by hazardous rays

Reference

Code of Practice -
Safety and Health at Work for
Gas Welding and Flame Cutting

A Guide to
the Factories and Industrial Undertakings
(Protection of Eyes) Regulations

Safety at Work -
A Guide to Personal Protective Equipment

A Guide to
the Factories and Industrial Undertakings
(Dangerous Substances) Regulations

Enquiry Service

Telephone : **2852 4041**

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Occupational Safety and Health Complaint
Hotline :

If you have any complaints about unsafe workplaces and practices, please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at **2542 2172**.

Information on the services offered by the Occupational Safety & Health Council can be obtained through their hotline: **2739 9000**.



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