



SAFETY MINUTES FOR : **MECHANICS**

TWO TO A CUSTOMER

When a baby is born it is gifted with five senses - SIGHT, HEARING, TASTE, TOUCH and SMELL. (Certain birth defects may deprive a child of one or more of these senses). You and I take for granted our ability to use these senses from the time we wake up until we go to bed at night.

We wake up hearing the sound of the alarm clock and we look to see what time it is. We can smell the coffee brewing, feel (touch) the hot water while we shower and we certainly expect to taste our breakfast.

Just suppose you were required to progressively give up four of your five senses - which one would you choose to keep? The first to go would probably be your sense of touch. While difficult to live without, you could handle it. The next would probably be smell and then taste. Loss of hearing is certainly less important than loss of sight. Now, no one wants to be deaf, but there is no question we would rather be deaf than blind. Sight is the one sense no one would want to be without. Someone has determined that 80% of what we know (our knowledge) comes to us through the eyes.

Sight is by far the most precious sense we have been given. If this is true, why then do we take so many chances when it comes to protecting our eyes? Every day people suffer serious eye injuries on the job and many are blinded for life. They have one thing in common - they failed to wear appropriate eye / face protection.

What about you? Are you taking chances with your most precious "sense"? "Common sense" says you ought to protect them at all costs - they are the only two you will get.

PLAY IT SAFE - WEAR EYE PROTECTION



NOTES

INSTRUCTOR'S

SUBJECT: EYE PROTECTION

EMPLOYEES: MECHANICS

INSTRUCTOR: _____

DATE: _____

An estimated sixty percent of companies have some form of eye protection program but fail to enforce compliance. This "middle of the road" approach is a dangerous position to be in. First, it does not ensure the employee is protected. Second, a preventable injury or loss of sight can impact insurance costs. Third, the company may be subjected to an OSHA inspection and probable penalties.

Hopefully, your company has an eye safety program and that it is effective. If you have had any eye injuries in the past 12 to 24 months, there is probably something missing - it may be enforcement. The company needs to be sure its bases are all covered per OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) rules:

- 1) a written PPE program
- 2) a certified hazard analysis
- 3) documentation of what PPE is required
- 4) a certified record of training for each employee.

(Refer to "Compliance Matters", Vol. 1T, No.12CM).

BEFORE YOUR MEETING:

- 1) Distribute copies of the Safety Minutes two to three days before your meeting.
- 2) Check your records to determine if you have had any eye injuries during the past 12 - 24 months. Evaluate them for contributing factors and causes. Refer to the "HAZARD TYPES" listed in your Support Information on the following page.

FOR YOUR MEETING:

- 1) If you have not had any eye injuries, this meeting is an excellent time to discuss the fact that your program and their support is working.
- 2) Discuss the Hazard Types plus others employees are aware of.
- 3) Ask employees if they are satisfied with their eye safety equipment. Is it effective and comfortable? Are replacements needed? (Write down comments).
- 4) Are there any parts of the program which should be revised? (Write down suggestions).
- 5) Does your program require all people entering the maintenance area to wear eye protection (including management and visitors)?
- 6) Recommendations to management? Write down.
- 7) Advise employees of actions taken by management since last meeting.

SUPPORT INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

EYE PROTECTION

1. HAZARD TYPES
 - A. Flash burn; welding, cutting
 - B. Slag splatter; welding, cutting
 - C. Splash; parts cleaner, chemicals
 - D. Projectiles; grinders (bench & portable), hammers
 - E. Airborne dust/particles; windy conditions
 - F. Dripping/falling material; working under vehicles or equipment (grease, oil, juice, etc.)
2. OSHA allows employees to provide and use their own PPE. However, the employer must approve all such equipment, including eye protection. To simplify matters and have better control, employers should purchase all eye protective equipment. Employees must be held accountable for care and custody. They should be required to turn in defective or damaged equipment in order to receive a free replacement. Employees should pay at least part of the cost for "lost" or "stolen" PPE.
3. Always make sure the designation ANSI Z78 is stamped on the frame of protective eye wear.
4. For most companies, the only way a PPE program can be successful is with consistent monitoring by supervisory personnel. Supervisors must also be consistent in enforcement - NO FAVORITES OR EXCUSES. Failure to wear the required eye protection should be a violation of your company's safety rules and be dealt with accordingly.
5. Choose glasses with side shields and temple length adjustment that look good and are comfortable. Think about issuing neck straps for the glasses as an added bonus during a subsequent meeting (neck straps come in various iridescent colors). This will not only be appreciated by employees, but may save a lot of wear and tear on the glasses as well. This simple idea can increase the wearing of glasses when needed.
6. Shaded or clear? Why not both? You can choose glasses with replacement lenses and give them one pair of each. Or, since protective eye wear is really not an expensive item, give them both shaded and clear glasses. Ninety five percent of the time maintenance personnel will need to wear the clear glasses.
7. Never buy safety glasses without side shields.

