



Types of eye hazards: #1 – Impact

- **Problem:** Wood chips, metal fragments, nails, dirt and other objects that can fly into unprotected eyes.
- **Solution:** Wear safety glasses, goggles and/or face shields as appropriate.

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EYE PROTECTION

Manufacturing and construction industries are full of hammering, grinding, sanding, drilling and other operations that can cause objects to fly unexpectedly through the air – and into somebody’s eye, either the worker himself or somebody nearby.

If you’re not wearing the right eye protection, you can easily lose an eye, as happened to the worker in the following story.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

Pete was an experienced construction worker. He was part a crew framing a house when, one day, he swung his hammer at a nail and didn’t hit it flush. The nail sprang out of its hole and hit him in the eye.

The nail punctured the eyeball, destroying Pete’s vision in that eye. What was worse, after the accident, his vision in the other eye started to blur, making him almost completely unable to work.

(ask the participants)

What did Pete do wrong?

Correct answer: Safety glasses are a necessity when nails are being pounded. Pete should have had his on.

(DuBose v. D&T Construction, South Carolina Workers’ Compensation Commission)

And you don’t have to be the one who sends the object flying to get hit with it.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

Lorna worked for a veterinarian. One day she was standing in the doorway of his surgery as he clipped a wire that he was using to immobilize a dog’s broken jaw. A piece of wire flew across the room and into Lorna’s eye. The lens was so badly damaged it had to be removed and replaced by an artificial lens.

(ask the participants)

What did Lorna do wrong?

Correct answer: The vet was wearing safety glasses, so he was protected. She shouldn’t have been in the area while the clipping was going on. .

(Backhaus v. Calvert, Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Court)