

SCF Arizona your business partner in Workers Compensation Insurance and workplace safety



Protect the eyes, face

SCF Arizona your Work Comp Specialist

Provided by **Tod Dennis**
Association Coordinator

Thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection.

Eye injuries alone cost more than \$300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and worker compensation, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to ensure the safety of all employees in the work environment, which means eye and face protection must be provided whenever necessary to protect against chemical, environmental, radiological or mechanical irritants and hazards.

Each year, SCF receives scores of workers' compensation claims from workers who have been injured by debris that has injured their eyes or struck them in the face.

OSHA addresses eye and face protection in specific standards for general industry and for construction fields.

In general, OSHA standards require that employers provide the kinds of protection, whether it is safety goggles or complete face shield, to ensure safety from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.

OSHA also requires that all eye and face personal protection equipment be marked in a manner that the manufacturer can be identified easily.

For full-face protection, face shields are the best choice. They protect the worker from splashes, heat, flying particles and other hazards, while allowing for plenty of ventilation.

Face shields are recommended especially for welding, riveting and activities that involve extreme heat. But remember, face shields won't protect the eyes, so they must be used in combination with safety glasses or goggles. And some face shields are designed specially to be fitted with hard hats.

As far as protecting the eyes, never rely on regular glasses as a way to protect them.

Workers in areas where there is a lot of airborne dust or grit, flying particles or splashing chemicals, need to choose protective eyewear best suited for the job.

Here are some tips provided by the American National Standards Institute:

- Glasses with impact resistant lenses that have side shields provide adequate protection for most types of work.
- Flexible-fitting or cushion-fitting goggles fit easily over prescription glasses and provide front and side protection.
- Special purpose eyewear, such as chemical or chipping goggles, provides maximum protection from fumes and flying debris.
- Full face shields may be worn in addition to protective eyewear for maximum facial protection.

For more on eye safety, watch the Eye Safety video on SCF Arizona's website

(www.scfaz.com) under Safety Net.

You also can order eye safety posters and informational brochures on the SCF Arizona website.

If you would like more information on workplace safety please contact your SCF Association Coordinator.

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SCF has made improvements to make provide better customer service. For example, our website, www.scfaz.com, now operates around the clock, so policyholders and injured workers can

- View claims
- Enter payroll
- Print certificates of insurance
- Pay premium by credit card at their convenience.

