



# EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

## EYE AND FACE PROTECTION FROM CHEMICAL SPLASHES

This RAP lesson discusses the selection of eye and face protection specific to chemical hazards to which workers are exposed. It also discusses two worst- case scenario Do's and Don'ts.

### **Materials to have on hand:**

Eye and face protector devices used at this worksite

### **Items for attendees to consider during talk:**

Do you always wear eye and face protection?

Do you know what to do if a hazardous chemical splashes into your eyes?

### **TALK**

Because we handle hazardous chemicals in our department, it is very important that we use the right eye protection to prevent injuries from splashes or irritating mists. Few things can be more frightening than the prospect of permanent blindness. Yet, workers take risks every day. In fact, most eye and face injuries happen because workers are not wearing protection.

We have the following protection devices to be used while working with hazardous chemicals:

- Goggles with indirect ventilation (both the eyecup and the cover type);
- A face shield to be worn over spectacles or goggles; *or*
- A full-face piece respirator.



*[Customize to protection specific to your county.]*

Your supervisor will provide the protector appropriate for the particular job you will be doing. Also, you need to understand that the atmospheric conditions of your work area and the restricted ventilation of the protector may cause the lenses to fog. And you may splash the protector, so it could require frequent cleaning.

When you receive your protective device, check it to make certain it has a “D3” marking along with the manufacturer mark on it. It may also have a “+” sign to indicate it is impact-rated, which protects you in the event of an accidental chemical explosion.

Despite our best preventive efforts, occasional accidents can occur. You could encounter other eye hazards in our workplace. And our response in an accident can determine whether the injury will be permanent.

**Let’s discuss two worst-case scenario Do’s and Don’ts:**

A hazardous chemical splashes into your eyes. **Do** flush them with water immediately while forcing the eyelids open. Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes. If you are wearing contact lenses, you can gently take them out while you are flushing. **Don’t** delay the flushing to take out your lenses but make sure that you take them out because they could trap the chemical in your eyes. Seek emergency medical help quickly.

A chemical mixture is heated for a desired reaction, but it results in an explosion that sends glass flying into your left eye. **Do** wash your hands. **Do not rub the eye!** Carefully try to flush out with a gentle stream of clean, warm water. Use an eyecup or a small, clean drinking glass positioned with its rim resting on the bone at the base of your eye socket. If you’re wearing contact lenses, it’s best to remove the lens before or while you’re flushing the surface of the eye with water. Sometimes a foreign body can be embedded on the under-surface of the lens.

These scenarios remind us of the importance not only of wearing eye and face protection but also of wearing the **right** protection!



## Student Handout

### EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

**Employees must use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from:**

- Flying materials
- Molten metal
- Liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids
- Chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation

**Employees who wear prescription lenses while engaged in operations that involve eye hazards**

- Has to wear eye protection that incorporates the prescription in its design
- Wears eye protection that can be worn over the prescription lenses
- Without disturbing the proper position of the prescription lenses or the protective lenses



Face Shield



Laser Goggles



Spectacles



Goggles



Laser Goggles