



Toolbox Talk— Instructor Guide for **Woodworkers**

Eye Injuries **Topic Overview**

The loss of an eye can change a worker's life forever and even prevent them from getting some jobs. Eyes are very sensitive and delicate. Injuries that look and seem minor can turn serious if not treated properly. Eye injuries can be very painful, and take months to heal. Most eye injuries can be prevented with the use of personal protective equipment.

Demonstration and **Discussion Topics**

- Discuss** the hazards in the shop that may produce eye injuries and that require the use of eye protection. Explain how injuries can occur if eye protection isn't used.
- Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out the hazards, and which type of eye protection would be required for each.
- Distribute** the student handout.
- Discuss** the different types of eye protection, (e.g. safety glasses with or without ventilation, and safety goggles with or without side shields.)
- Explain** the hazards of wearing contact lenses – they can absorb harmful gases or break upon impact.
- Review** the safety tips.
- Explain** that their employer is responsible for:
 - Determining what type of eye protection they require for any task that involves exposure to materials likely to injure or irritate the eyes.
 - Providing appropriate eye protection, and replacing it if it becomes pitted, scratched, bent or cracked.
 - Providing appropriate eyewash stations as required in Part 21, Section 320 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* and ensuring that workers are trained in its use.

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“Eye injuries can be very painful, and take months to heal. Most eye injuries can be prevented with the use of protective equipment.”

- Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of eye injuries (e.g., guarding, posted safe work procedures, eye protection available at workstations that require it, eyewash stations).
- Make it real.** Tell at least two true stories of injuries from your experience, or use the examples below:
 - A worker suffered burns to his face and eyes when the solvent he was using splashed up into his face.
 - A worker lost the use of one eye when hit by a flying sliver of wood. He was not wearing goggles.
- Discuss** the attitude that “it won’t happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about eye protection.
- Encourage them to **ASK** questions
- Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

Additional Resources

- Eye protection (sections 8.14-8.18)**
www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part8.asp
- Eyewash stations (section G5.89)**
www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart5.asp

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