



## eSafetyLine

### **Preventing Eye Injuries**

The Vision Learning Center reports that nearly one million Americans lose some degree of sight as a result of eye injuries each year and over seven hundred thousand American workers injure their eyes at work. It is estimated that about ninety percent of all injuries can be prevented through the proper selection and use of safety eyewear.

Prevent Blindness America lists 10 ways that eye injuries can be prevented in the workplace.

#### **#1 - Assess**

Look carefully at operations, inspect work areas, access routes and equipment for eye injury hazards. Study eye accident and injury reports. Identify operations and areas that present eye hazards.

#### **#2 – Test**

Uncorrected vision problems can cause accidents. Encourage workers to include vision testing during routine physical examinations.

#### **#3 - Protect**

Select protective eyewear that is designed for the specific duty or hazard. Ensure that all protective eyewear meets the criteria established by OSHA.

#### **#4 – Participate**

Create a 100% mandatory program for eye protection in all operation areas in the workplace. A broad policy prevents more injuries and is easier to enforce than one that limits eye protection to certain areas or jobs.

#### **#5 – Fit**

Ensure that protective eyewear fits well and is comfortable. Provide repairs for eyewear and require each worker to be in charge of their own gear.

## **#6 – Plan for an Emergency**

Set up first-aid procedures for eye injuries. Have eyewash stations that are easy to get to, especially where chemicals are used. Train workers in basic first-aid and identify those with more advanced training.

## **#7 – Educate**

Conduct ongoing educational programs to create, keep up, and highlight the need for protective eyewear. Add eye safety to your regular employee training programs and to new employee orientation.

## **#8 – Support**

Management support is a key to having a successful eye safety program. For example, management should lead by example by wearing protective eyewear whenever and wherever it is needed and/or required.

## **#9 – Review**

Review and update accident prevention policies on a regular basis. This review should include eye injury prevention. The organization's goal should be ZERO eye injuries or accidents.

## **#10 – Put in Writing**

Once the eye injury prevention program is created, put it in writing. Display a copy of the policy in the work area. Include a review of the policy in new employee orientation.

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## **Discussion Questions**

What areas or operations present eye injury hazards on the job?

What action has been taken to abate these hazards?

Review the 10 Ways to Prevent Eye Injuries one item at a time. Provide examples of how the organization implements these recommendations.

# MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Safety Coordinator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date