

Toolbox Talk:Eye Safety

Produced by:

Abla Mawudeku, Judith
Anderson, Kathy Hunting,
Sandra Jacob
Dept. of Env. & Occ. Health,
George Washington University,
Washington, D.C.

Laura Welch
Occ. & Env. Medicine,
Washington Hospital Center,
Washington, D.C.

This presentation was funded by research grant U60 CCU 317202 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through The Center to Protect Workers' Rights, Silver Spring, Md. The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIOSH.

EYE INJURIES: some facts . . .



About 1000 work-related eye injuries occur each day.

CONSTRUCTION HAS THE HIGHEST RATE!

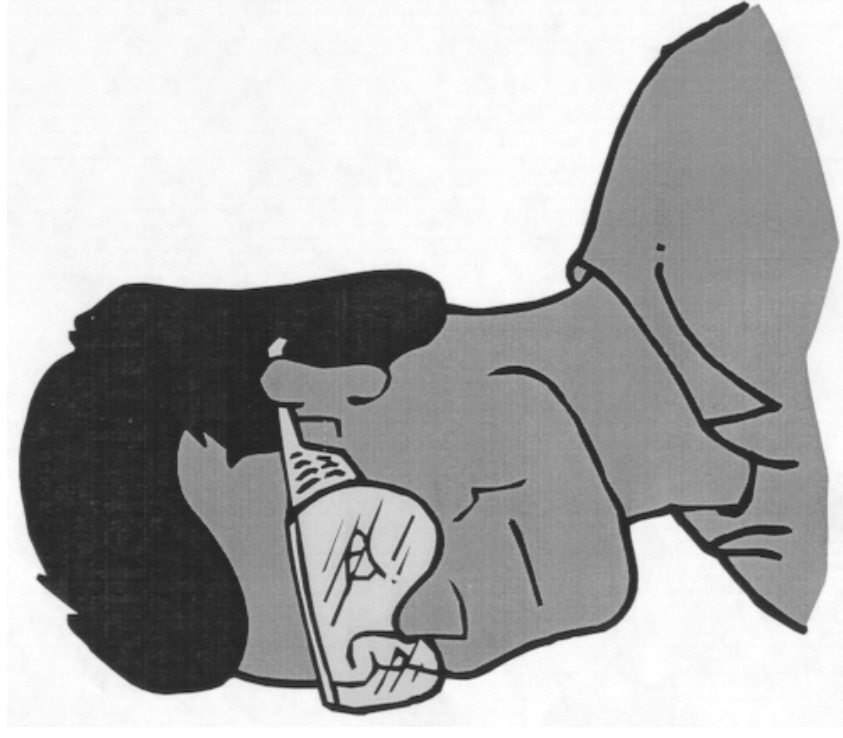
Every day, more than 120 construction workers are disabled and forced to miss work because of an eye injury.

the alternative . . .

**Wearing protective glasses
that cost as little as \$ 7.50 !!**

**MORE IMPORTANTLY,
THOSE GLASSES WILL SAVE
YOUR EYES.**

**It only takes a split second to
injure your eye. But it takes a
lot more time (and money) to
heal.**



how do eye injuries occur?

• At George Washington University Emergency Department, over 300 construction workers have been treated for eye injuries since 1990.

• **ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS RANK IN THE TOP FIVE TRADES.**

• **This is what we have learned about the circumstances of their eye injuries....**

what is getting into your eyes?

Solvent
splashes

liquids or gases under
PRESSURE

Electrical
Sparks

Solder
Specks



Nails

Insulation
fibers

Welding Fumes

grinding
dust

BITS OF WIRE
Glass

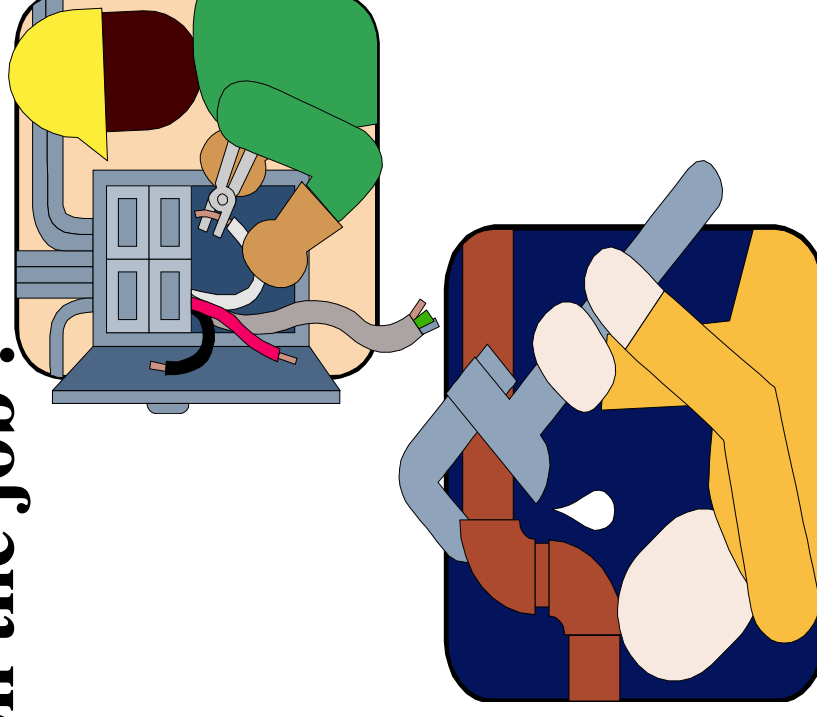
the **WHEN** and **HOW** of eye injuries

Eye injuries can occur anytime anywhere on the job !

If you

- work overhead**
- weld**
- use power tools**
- work on live circuits**
- work with pressurized liquids or gas**

.... you are especially at RISK!

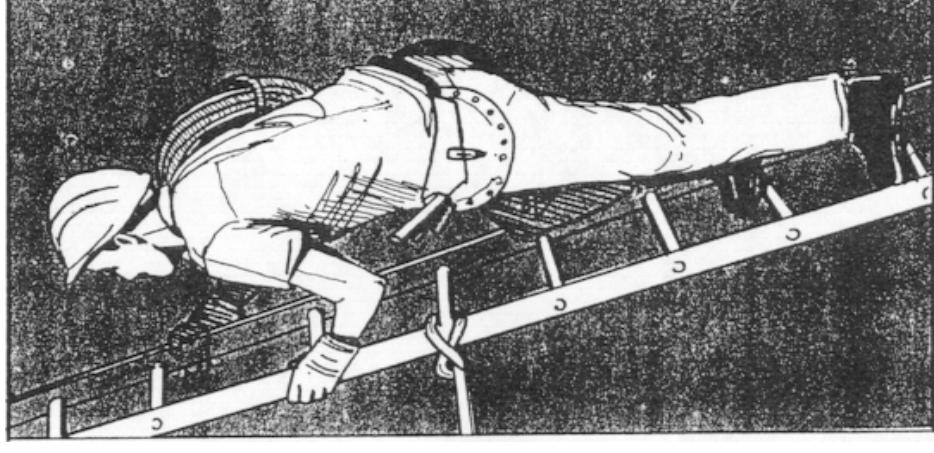


Overhead work

Electricians get eye injuries
when they work with....

- wires
- conduits
- light units
- drop ceilings
- hangers
- smoke detectors
- drilling holes
- soldering

...and don't forget about the prep
work

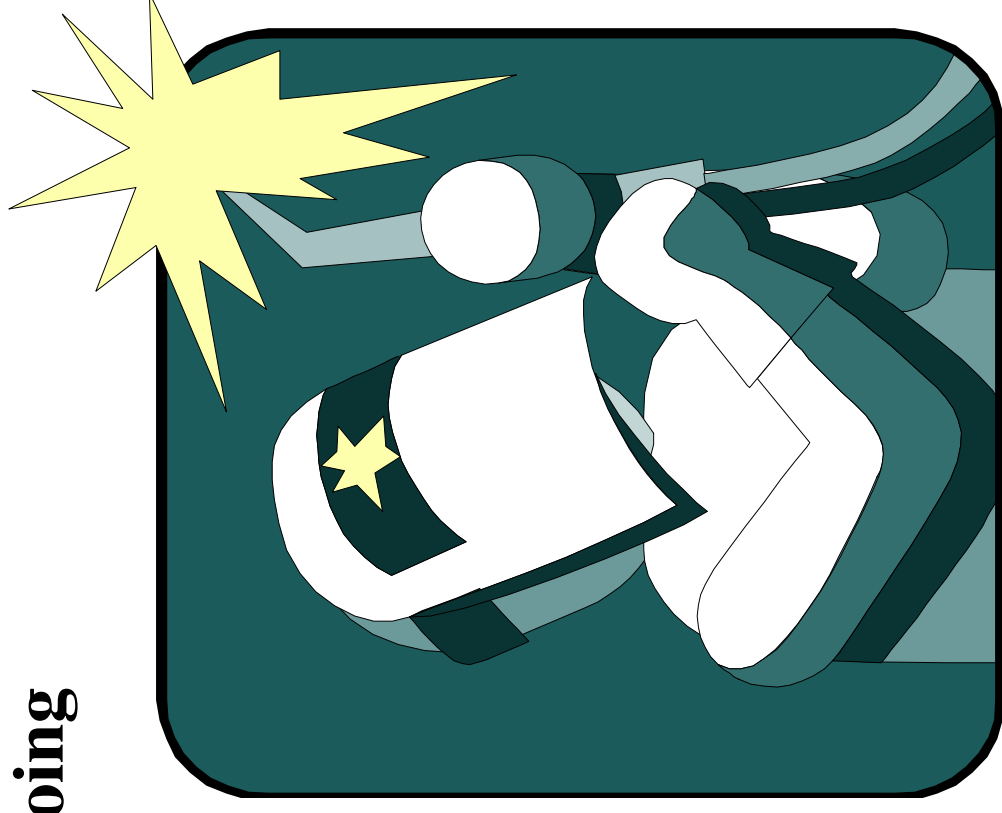


Overhead work

Plumbers get eye injuries when doing overhead tasks such as....

- cutting pipes
- removing pipes
- welding
- soldering
- grinding
- fitting
- installing hangers

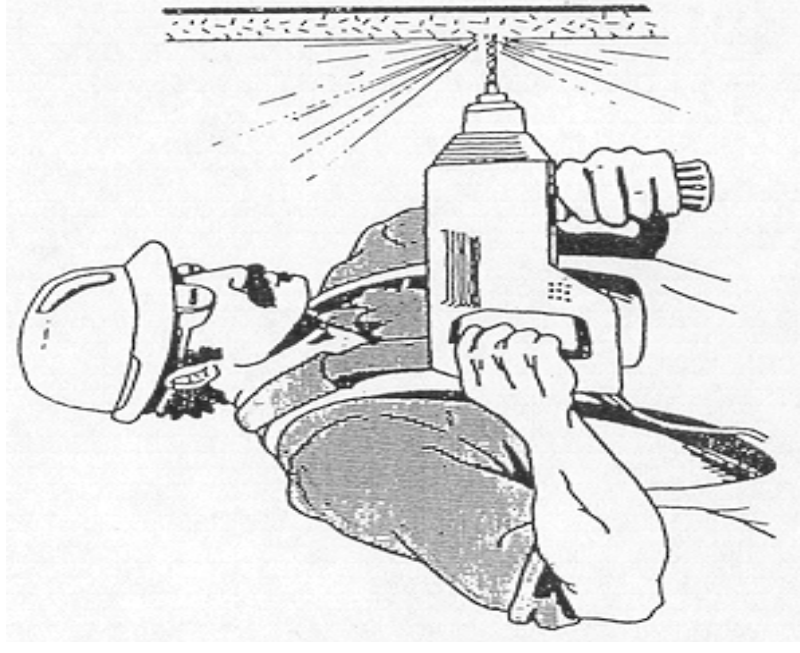
*.... and don't forget about
the prep work*



working with power tools

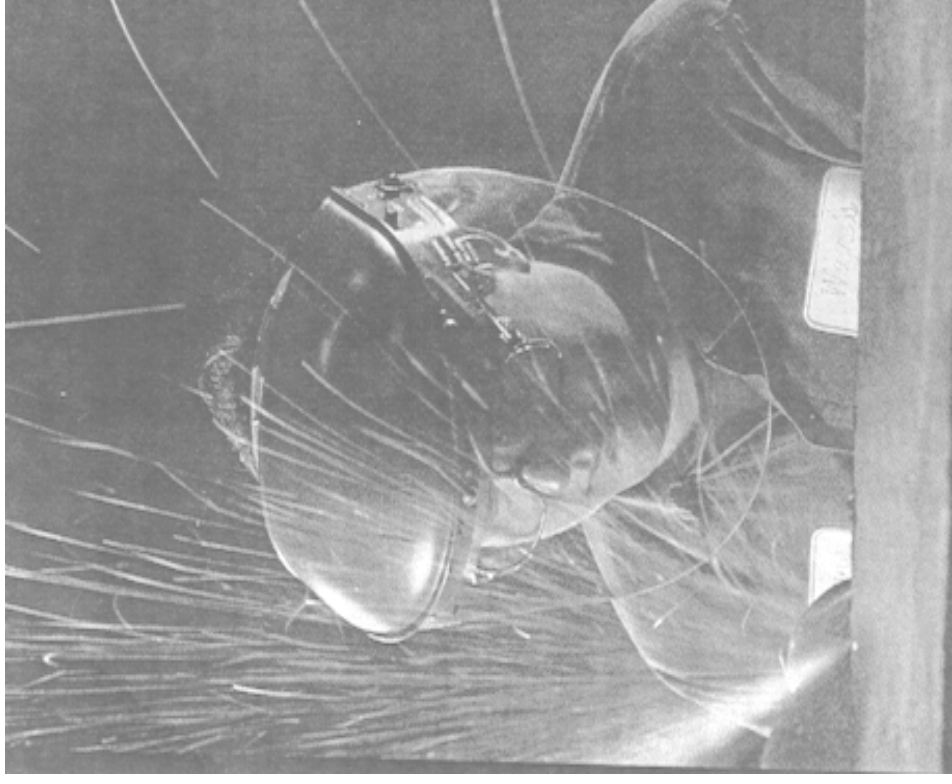
Obviously, power tools create lots and lots of dust, not only for you, but for people around you.

POWER TOOLS ARE ESPECIALLY HAZARDOUS IN A CONFINED SPACE.



the innocent bystander...

Some injuries occur simply by passing a work area or working next to someone who is grinding, sawing, or welding.



eye protection: the right fit ...

Some workers we talked to were wearing eye protection when they were injured.

Sometimes it was not the right kind and sometimes it was not the right fit!

Safety glasses should have side shields and if possible upper and lower shields.



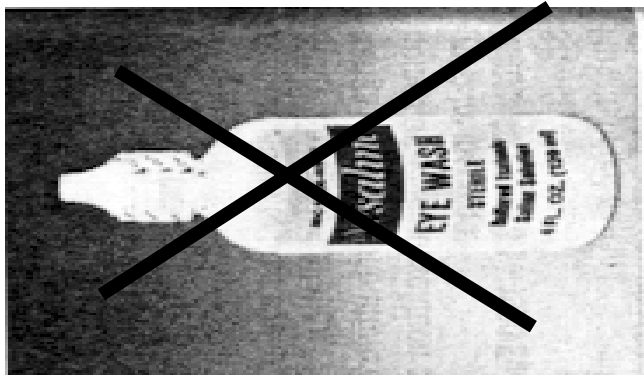
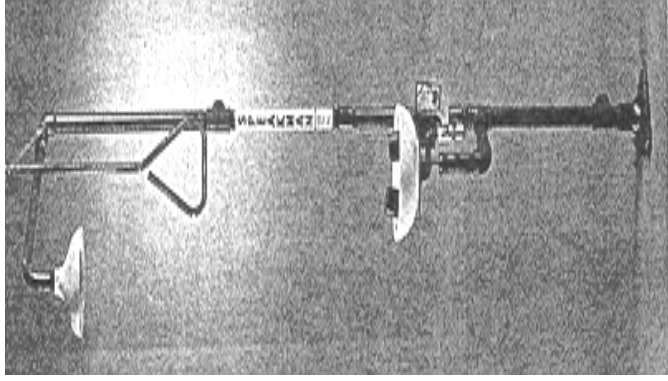
GOGGLES ARE BEST!

what to do if you get something in your eye

DON'T DON'T RUB IT!

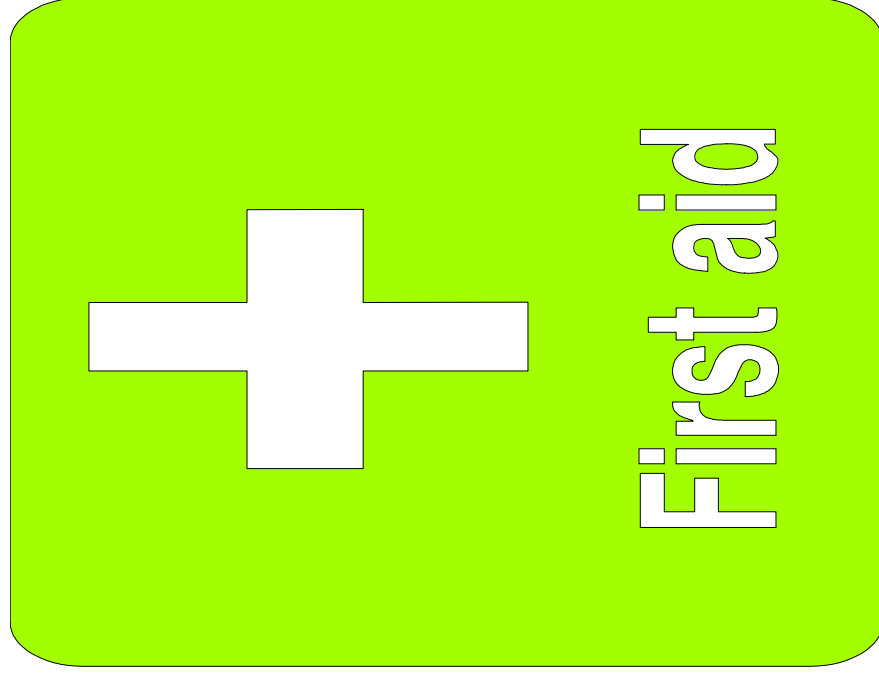
Rinse with clean water for
at least 15-20 minutes.

ANSI-approved eyewash
stations are best. Eyewash bottles
are not approved.



BUT ANY CLEAN WATER WILL DO !!

what next ???



Get medical attention!!!

Ask the safety supervisor or first aid person to take a look at your eye.

You might even need a trip to the ER.



what about a cut or puncture?

DON'T DON'T DON'T

**wash or touch your eye or lift the upper lid
of your eye!**

like the song says, let it be....

Get medical attention immediately!!

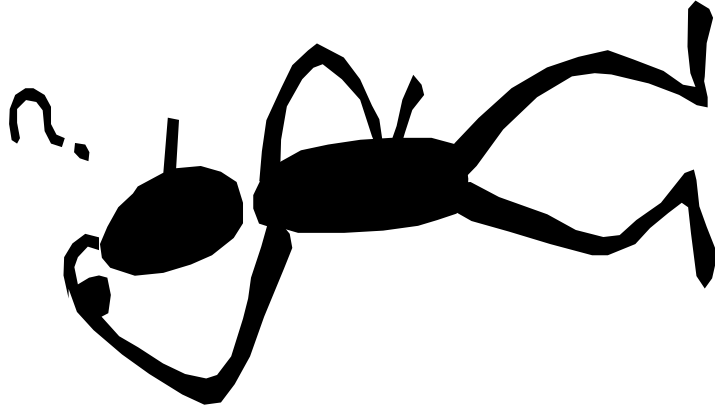


workplace safety: are you ready for your work day?

- Do you have your **SAFETY GLASSES**?
- Are they **HANDY**?
- Do they **FIT** properly?
- Do you know where the nearest **EYEWASH STATIONS** are from your work area?
- Do you know how to get **MEDICAL ATTENTION** if needed?

things to think about...

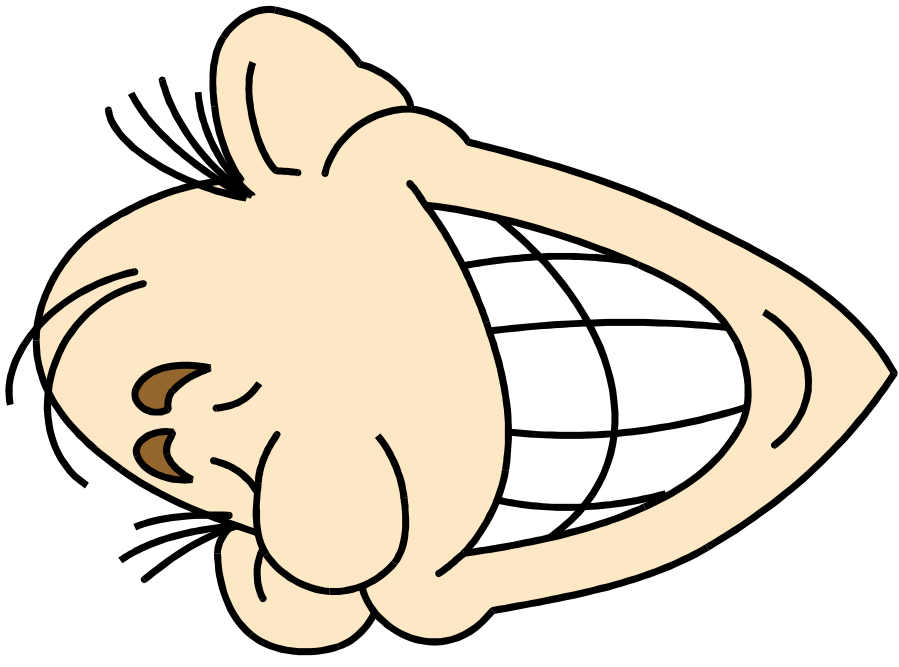
WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING TODAY ?



WILL YOU BE:

- using a power tool?
- drilling?
- working overhead?
- working near somebody who is using
a power tool, welding, drilling,
soldering, grinding, or working
overhead?

Have a Safe Work Day!



Don't forget to wear your eye



sea