



SAFETY ALERT # 19



April, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

EYE INJURIES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

What Happened

Eye injuries are all too common and can “sneak up” on you. Recently a worker had “dust” blown into his eyes, if irrigated properly he may have been alright. Instead he did nothing and some time later his eyes started to bother him. Inevitably he began to rub his eyes, that’s when he discovered that the “dust” was really metal fragments one of which became embedded in his eye. He went from an eye wash to surgical removal and from basic first aid to a recordable injury.

Applicable MIOSHA Standards

Part 6 – Personal Protective Equipment

Prevention

Even when you follow safety procedures, an accident may still happen. The National Safety Council recommends that you understand how to respond if you are a victim of an eye emergency:

Chemical Splash

- Don't squeeze eyes shut. Hold them open with thumb and index finger.
- Flood eyes with cool, clean water for 15-20 minutes.
- Get medical help as soon as possible. If you can, bring the chemical container and its label for evaluation.
- Don't use another chemical to neutralize the spilled chemical.

Flying Particles

- Don't try to remove anything embedded in the eye. You could cause further damage.
- Don't pull or squeeze the eye.
- Cover both eyes to prevent movement.
- Get medical help as soon as possible.

Blows to the Eyes

- Apply ice packs to control swelling and relieve the pain.
- Cover both eyes to prevent movement.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

Thanks to Guy, Hurley, Blaser and Heuer for providing some of the above information.