EYE PROTECTION

Toolbox Talk 10.31.2023

Eye Protection

OSHA's standards for eye protection are intended to help prevent accidents that can lead to serious injuries caused by a variety of hazards. These hazards include flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, chemical gases, vapors, or light radiation. Even things as simple as a windy day or gravity can blow or drop debris into our eyes.

Here are some of the major requirements of the OSHA standards for eye and face protection that help protect you:

- All eye and face protection devices, such as safety glasses, goggles, and face shields must be marked that they meet or exceed the test requirements of ANSI Z87.1-1989.
- Safety glasses must have side protection built into the design or attachable side shields that meet the above-referenced ANSI standard.
- Workers needing corrective lenses must either wear approved safety glasses with prescription lenses and frames that meet or exceed the above-referenced ANSI standard, or wear approved 'Over the Glasses' over top of their regular prescription glasses.

While there may be many reasons why you do not want to wear safety glasses (i.e., comfortability, they fog up and get dirty, style of glasses, etc.) please consider the consequences should an accident occur on site and you injure one or both of your eyes. It is not worth risking injury to your eyes. Be safe and wear your eye protection.

Key Points:

1. If you choose to provide/wear your own glasses, they must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards. If tested, Z87 will be stamped on the inside of the frame. Typically on the temple.
2. Whether they are prescription glasses or just standard pair of sunglasses, if your glasses are not Z87 approved, you should not be wearing them on an active job-site.

If you do not have safety glasses, please reach out to your supervisor, site superintendent, crew lead, or safety specialist to request another pair. Michael currently has the following items in stock:

- Clear safety glasses
- Clear readers/cheaters with 1, 1.5, and 2 power
- Dark/tinted glasses
- 'Over the Glasses' and attachable side shields

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