

Toolbox talk

Year-round

5 minutes

Eye and Face Protection Toolbox Talk

Match the protection to the task - glasses for impact, goggles for dust and splash, face shield over glasses for grinding and cutting - and wear it for the whole task, including the "last quick cut."

READ ALOUD (ABOUT 5 MINUTES)

Most eye injuries on jobsites happen in a second: a wire end, a grinding spark, a nail fragment, a splash of concrete wash. And most happen to people who own protection but were not wearing it at that moment.

Match the gear to the task. Impact hazards - cutting, chipping, nailing - need safety glasses at minimum. Dust and chemical splash need sealed goggles. Grinding, sawing, and chipping overhead need a face shield, worn over glasses, because the shield alone is not primary eye protection.

The most dangerous cut of the day is the last quick one, done with the glasses pushed up on the helmet. If the task makes chips, sparks, dust, or splash, the protection goes on before the trigger gets pulled - every time, including the ten-second version of the job.

INCIDENT EXAMPLE

A carpenter pulled his glasses up to see a pencil line better, made one more cut, and took a chip fragment to the cornea. Surgery saved most of his vision. The glasses were on his forehead when it happened.

CONTROLS TO COVER

- Match protection to the hazard: glasses, goggles, or shield over glasses.
- Wear it for the entire task, including short and "last" cuts.
- Keep lenses clean and replace scratched or fogged eyewear.
- Protect nearby workers too - flying fragments do not respect trade lines.

CREW DISCUSSION

1. Which tasks today make chips, sparks, dust, or splash?
2. Who works next to those tasks and needs protection without holding the tool?
3. Where are replacement glasses and shields staged on this site?

QUICK QUIZ

1. Is a face shield alone enough for grinding?
No. Wear it over safety glasses or goggles - the shield is secondary protection.
2. When do glasses come off during a cutting task?
After the task is finished, not between cuts.
3. Scratched, fogged lenses - keep wearing them?
No. Replace them; poor visibility creates its own hazard.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.102 - Eye and face protection is a recurring top-10 OSHA construction citation, and most jobsite eye injuries happen to workers not wearing protection at the moment of injury.

Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

Attendance record for the talk above. Reviewers (OSHA, GC, ISNetworld/Avetta) expect topic, date, presenter identity, and attendee signatures.

Project / location

Date and time

Topic: Eye and Face Protection Toolbox Talk

Presenter (print)

Presenter signature

NAME (PRINT)	COMPANY / TRADE	SIGNATURE

Concerns raised and follow-up actions (owner, due date)