

## Eye and Face Protection

Thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection. Eye injuries alone cost more than \$300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and worker compensation.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) alone should not be relied on to protect against hazards. Use PPE in conjunction with guards, engineering controls, and sound manufacturing practices.

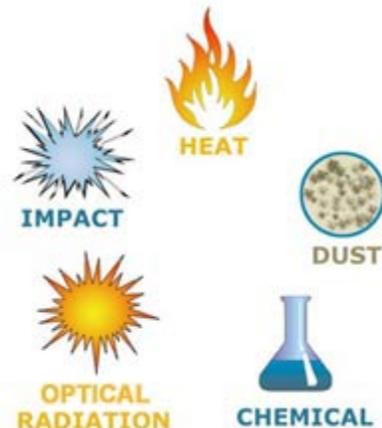
### Selecting PPE for the Workplace

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the eyes and face is designed to prevent or lessen the severity of injuries to workers. The employer must assess the workplace and determine if hazards that necessitate the use of eye and face protection are present or are likely to be present before assigning PPE to workers.

[1910.132(d)]

A hazard assessment should determine the risk of exposure to eye and face hazards, including those which may be encountered in an emergency. Employers should be aware of the possibility of multiple and simultaneous hazard exposures and be prepared to protect against the highest level of each hazard.

[1910 Subpart I App B]



Hazard Assessment		
Hazard type	Examples of Hazard	Common Related Tasks
<u>Impact</u>	Flying objects such as large chips, fragments, particles, sand, and dirt.	Chipping, grinding, machining, masonry work, wood working, sawing, drilling, chiseling, powered fastening, riveting, and sanding.
<u>Heat</u>	Anything emitting extreme heat.	Furnace operations, pouring, casting, hot dipping, and welding.
<u>Chemicals</u>	Splash, fumes, vapors, and irritating mists.	Acid and chemical handling, degreasing, plating, and working with blood.
<u>Dust</u>	Harmful Dust.	Woodworking, buffing, and general dusty conditions.
<u>Optical Radiation</u>	Radiant energy, glare, and intense light	Welding, torch-cutting, brazing, soldering, and laser work.