

Eye Safety Awareness

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's oldest volunteer eye health and safety organization, has declared October as Eye Safety Awareness Month in an effort to urge the public to take extra care in protecting their eyes in order to avoid painful and potentially blinding eye accidents. Eye injuries include everything from painful corneal abrasions, to chemical splashes or punctures to the eye that can cause permanent vision loss.

We can become complacent about remembering to use the proper eye protection. But we must remember that an eye injury that can occur in a split second can have lifelong impact on vision.

Prevent Blindness America urges everyone to wear eyewear approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The eyewear should have the "Z-87" logo stamped on the frames.

Prevent Blindness America also recommends the following:

Provide effective lights and handrails to improve safety on stairs and reduce the risk of falls.

Never mix cleaning agents. Read and follow all manufacturer instructions and warning labels.

Wear safety glasses with side protection or dust goggles to protect against flying particles, and chemical goggles to guard against exposure to fertilizers and pesticides.

If you wear prescription glasses, many safety glasses or goggles will fit over your regular glasses. Regular eyeglasses do not always provide enough protection, and may even cause further injury upon impact.

Keep tools in good condition; damaged tools should be repaired or replaced.

Welding or brazing requires special safety goggles or helmets. Consult your equipment instruction or supplier for the proper protection.

