



## Occupational Health Unit

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Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program

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KEEPING CONNECTICUT'S WORKERS HEALTHY

## WORKPLACE EYE INJURIES

Job-related eye injuries requiring medical treatment affect approximately 2,000 U.S. workers each day. One-third of these workers are treated in hospital emergency departments and more than 100 of these injuries resulted in one or more days away of work (NIOSH 2008).



Source: gnicetoview.blogfa.com

Personal protective eyewear, such as goggles, face shields, safety glasses, or full face respirators must also be used when an eye hazard exists. The eye protection chosen for specific work situations depends upon the nature and extent of the hazard, the circumstances of exposure, other protective equipment used, and personal vision needs. Selection of protective eyewear appropriate for a given task should be made based on a hazard assessment of each activity, including regulatory requirements when applicable (NIOSH, 2008).

## FAST FACTS

The following data reflects cases of eye injuries and illnesses reported by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Connecticut Occupational Medicine clinics and other providers from 2003-2008.

### In the United States:

- 46% of reported eye injury cases required more than one day of lost work time.
- Over half of all injury cases affected workers 25 to 44 years of age
- Men are disproportionately affected with over 80% of all eye injuries affecting them.
- In 2008, eye injuries involving days away from work accounted for 37% of all head injuries and 62 % of all face injuries.

### In Connecticut:

- Nearly 10% of all work-related injuries and illnesses reports received at CT DPH from 2003-2008 were work-related eye injuries and illness.
- Burns to the eye represent over 12% of all eye injuries from 2003-2008.
- Over 65% of workplace eye injuries occurred in men, yet male workers comprise only approximately half of Connecticut's workforce.
- Manufacturing, Trade, Education and Health Care and Public Administration made up over 79% of the total reported eye injuries, however these industries only comprised 56% of Connecticut's workforce in 2008.

## INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/>

<http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/work.html>

<http://www.bls.gov/iif/>