Preventing Occupational Eye Injuries

- **SUPPORT!** Management support is key to having a successful eye safety program. Management should all set an example by wearing eyewear protection in all areas of operation.

- **EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY HAZARDS!** Look carefully at operations. Inspect work areas and equipment. Study eye accident and injury reports.

- **EXAMINATIONS!** Undocumented vision problems can cause accidents. Encourage vision testing and physical examinations for yourself and your employee(s).

- **PROTECTION, POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT!** Select certified protective eyewear designed for a specific duty or hazard. When a safety program has been formed to fit your needs, put it in writing. Display a copy of the policy in gathering areas where all can see. For maximum protection against eye injuries, establish a 100% mandatory program that requires eye protection in all areas of operation.

- **PLAN FOR AN EMERGENCY!** Establish first-aid procedures for eye injuries. Make eyewash stations accessible, especially where chemicals are used.

- **TRAINING!** Train workers in basic first aid and identify those with more advanced first-aid training. Conduct ongoing educational programs to establish, maintain and reinforce the need for protective eyewear. Add eye safety to your regular employee education/training policy and include a review of this policy to new hires during orientation.

- **REASSESS AND REVISE!** Regularly reassess and, when needed, revise your accident prevention policies. The goal should be to have NO eye injuries or accident

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**30 CFR §56/§7.15004 - Eye protection**

This standard requires that all persons shall wear safety glasses, goggles or face shields or other suitable protective devices when in or around an area of a mine or plant where a hazard exists which could cause injury to unprotected eyes. - Photo-gray lenses, which comply with ANSI Z87.1-1979 for impact and shatter resistance and frame construction would meet the requirements of this standard. However, these lenses do not meet the requirements for radiant energy generated during electric arc welding or gas flame cutting and, therefore, are not acceptable for these uses. Additionally, their use underground or at night is not advisable because most photo-gray lenses respond too slowly to changes in light level and may not lighten rapidly enough.

ANSI is an acronym for the American Nation Standards Institute. Created in 1918, the American Nation Standards Institute is a non-profit, voluntary organization that develops its guidelines and procedures, based on a national consensus process. All safety markings for ANSI Z87.1-2015 safety eyewear must be permanently and clearly marked on the frame or lens.