

In a serious incident involving a Risk Pool Member, a fleet maintenance employee suffered a traumatic eye injury when a piece of copper tubing pierced their eye socket while servicing a vacuum truck. This accident led to almost \$200,000 of associated medical costs, required extensive medical treatment for the injured worker, and put the involved employee's vision at risk.

Our eyes are essential for vision and are highly sensitive, but at the same time vulnerable to injury. In the fast-paced environment of a workplace, it's easy to underestimate the dangers that can jeopardize eye safety. From flying debris to chemical splashes, many work settings present significant risks to eye health. Below are some key strategies to help prevent eye injuries in the workplace.

**1**

**Perform Eye Risk Assessments:** Before starting tasks prone to eye injuries, conduct risk assessments to identify potential hazards. Implement controls to mitigate risks and ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.



**2**

**Wear Appropriate PPE:** Always wear safety glasses, goggles, or face shields to protect against flying particles, dust, chemicals, or other hazardous materials. Ensure proper fit and coverage.

**3**

**Ensure Hand Tools and Equipment Have Protective Guards (If equipped):** Guards provided by the tool manufacturer should be in good condition, be in place, and never removed or bypassed.



**4**

**Use Caution When Handling Hazardous Substances:** Always read and follow Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and product labels. Use fume hoods or splash guards when necessary. Ensure eyewash stations are operational and accessible. In case of a chemical splash, flush your eyes with water immediately, and seek medical attention.



**5**

**Educate Employees:** Provide comprehensive training on eye safety protocols, proper PPE use, hazard recognition, and emergency response procedures. Use signage in areas where significant exposures are present.

#### LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [TMLJRP Media Library](#) 1) Safety First: Eye Protection (DVD) Disk #674
- Texas Department of Insurance — [5 Tips for Eye Safety & Eye Injury Prevention Safety Fact Sheet](#)
- Texas Department of Insurance — [Eye Protection Safety Training Program](#)
- TMLJRP's Safer in Seconds: [Eye Protection Part 1](#) and [Eye Protection Part 2](#)