

Safety Note #38

## BASIC EYE PROTECTION



Information from Prevent Blindness America indicates about 2,000 people sustain eye injuries at work every day. Of these daily eye injuries, about 200 to 400 injuries cause temporary or permanent loss of vision. Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) workplaces encompass a variety of environments where eye injuries can potentially occur, including spraying operations, dusty areas, shops, battery handling areas, laboratories, and pesticide dispensing areas. **Video E-038 Eye Protection is available from the ANR Environmental Health and Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

### Eye Protection Requirements

- California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 8, Section 3382 requires employees working in areas where there is a risk of receiving eye injuries to wear eye protection. Moreover, employers are required to provide eye protection and ensure employees use the eye protection.
- University of California Davis Policy and Procedure Manual Section 290-50 III. B. 1. states “Individuals engaged in or observing an activity that may cause eye injury are required to wear eye protection such as, but not limited to, goggles, face shields, prescription-ground safety glasses, or plano safety glasses.”
- Eye and face protection are required to meet American National Standards Institute’s impact and ultraviolet radiation standard Z87.1 [CCR Title 8, Section 3382 (d) (1) and (2)].

### Recommended Eye Protection Practices

- Always use appropriate eye protection as follows:
  1. Safety Glasses [with side shields] – for use in work environments where minor dust, chips, shavings, or flying particle hazards are present [i.e., wood or metal shops, construction and maintenance/repair areas].
  2. Goggles – for use in work environments where spray, mist, high-dust, or splash hazards are present [i.e., laboratory, pesticide handling/spraying, equipment wash, grain and battery handling areas].
  3. Face Shields – for use in work environments where there is a high likelihood of facial impacts from spraying, chipping, grinding, or chemical hazards. Always wear safety glasses or goggles beneath a face shield.
- Eye protection goggles should form a protective seal against the face in work environments where mist, spray, high-dust, or splash hazards are present.
- Never use damaged or malfunctioning eye protection equipment.
- Always adjust eye protection to assure a snug and secure fit that will not interfere with job movements.
- Always properly clean and maintain eye protection equipment.