Eye Protection — Seeing is Believing Stats and Facts

FACTS

- 1. Particles of rocks, soil, crop material or other foreign objects thrown from equipment that chops or grinds can cause unexpected eye injury to the operator or bystander.
- 2. Eye injuries are more likely to occur when servicing equipment than when operating it.
- 3. Simple hand tools can cause severe eye injuries.
- 4. Almost 70 percent of all eye injuries result from flying or falling objects striking the eye.
- 5. Contact with chemicals (liquids, gases, dusts, fumes, or vapors) causes another 20 percent of eye injuries.
- 6. Swinging objects most of the remaining injuries are caused by objects that swing from an attached position. Tree limbs, ropes, chains, or tools are common examples.
- 7. Bloodborne pathogens and bodily fluids In health care, maintenance, and housekeeping fields, there is a danger of these liquids being splashed into the eyes.
- 8. Other causes electrical arcs and sparks, molten metal, and radiant energy from welding, cutting, lasers, and ultraviolet and infrared light also contribute to eye injury.
- 9. While eye injuries can occur in just about any job, mechanics, repairers, carpenters, plumbers, assemblers, sanders, and grinding machine operators are most likely to be victims.

STATS

■ Eye injuries in the workplace are very common. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports that every day about 2,000 U.S. workers sustain job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment.

- 60% of workers who suffered an eye injury were wearing no eye protection or the wrong type of eye protection at the time of the accident.
- 90% of work-related eye injuries could be avoided if workers wore eye protection. (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
- BLS reported that more than 50 % of workers injured while wearing eye protection thought the eyewear had minimized their injuries.