

# What PPE Are These Workers Missing?

What's wrong with this picture?



These workers are actually missing two kinds of PPE:

1. Safety glasses or goggles to protect their eyes from flying ice chips; and
2. Footwear with slip-resistant soles to keep them from slipping on the ice.

**Moral:** As their employer, **you're** responsible for ensuring that your workers use the right PPE for the job.

## EYE PROTECTION

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

#### 4 Reasons to Pay Attention

1. **Every day**, more than 2,000 U.S. workers injure their eyes at work
2. **Every year**, more than 100,000 workers lose all or part of their sight as a result of a work-related eye injury

3. **Not wearing any eye protection** is the cause of 3 of 5 of these eye injuries

4. **Wearing the wrong kind of eye protection** is the cause of nearly 2 of 5 of these eye injuries

## USE THE RIGHT EYE PROTECTION FOR THE JOB

### 5 Kinds of Eye Protection

Make sure you select the right kind of PPE for the job. The 5 most common types of eye protection are:

1. **Safety Glasses** have safety frames (usually metal or plastic) + impact-resistant lenses + sometimes side shields

- Protect the eyes from flying objects, sparks & dust



2. **Safety Goggles** completely cover the eyes, eye sockets and facial area around them

- Protect the eyes from impact, dust & splashes



3. **Shaded Eyewear** has tinted lenses to protect the eye from glare and harmful light

- Protect against ultraviolet and other radiation
- Used for outdoor work, welding and other jobs involving exposure to harmful light
- Include safety glasses, goggles, and face shields with tinted lenses



**4. Welding Shields** are made of vulcanized fiber or fiberglass and fitted with filtered lenses that must be of a shade number necessary to protect against the particular hazard

- Protect eyes from burns caused by intense light
- Protect eyes & face from flying sparks & metal splatter & slag chips from welding/brazing/soldering/cutting operations



**5. Face Shields** are transparent plastic sheets that extend from the eyebrows to below the chin and across the entire width of the head and may be polarized to protect against glare

- Protect against dust, splashes & sprays
- Don't protect against impact—unless you wear safety spectacles or goggles underneath



## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EYE INJURIES

### 8 EYE PROTECTION DO'S & DON'TS

There are 8 things to do/not do to ensure proper use of eye protection:

- **DO** clean your eye protection regularly following company/manufacturer instructions
- **DON'T** use goggles if they're scratched, don't fit right or the elastic band is frayed

- **DO** inspect your eye protection each time before you use it
- **DON'T** use safety spectacles if they're scratched, bent or don't fit right
- **DO** ensure that face & welding shields are disinfected periodically
- **DON'T** use eye protection that's not designed to protect you from the actual hazard you face in doing the job
- **DO** make sure you actually *use* your ey protection
- **DON'T** use eye protection equipment if it doesn't fit right, obstructs your movement or blocks your vision