OSHA says that at least 90% of all workplace eye injuries can be prevented through the use of proper eye protection.

Why So Many Injuries?

1. **Workers weren't wearing any eye protection.** By some estimates, as many as three out of five injured workers weren't wearing eye protection at the time of their accident.
2. **Workers were wearing the wrong kind of protection.** In other words, the eyewear didn't adequately protect against the specific hazard they faced.

What Causes Most Injuries?

Most industrial eye injuries are the result of flying particles, a majority of which are smaller than a pinhead. In addition, eye injuries may be caused by:

- Chemical splashes, vapors, or dust
- Being struck by or bumping into an object
- Sparks or molten metal and other hot liquid splashes
- Effects of light radiation from welding and similar operations

What Protection Is Needed?

- Safety glasses with side shields or goggles provide good protection against impact hazards like flying particles.
- Safety goggles prevent dust and chemical splashes and vapors from getting into the eyes.
- A face shield worn over goggles provides extra protection from flying particles, chemical splashes, and burns from sparks and hot substances.
- Welding goggles with special lenses protect eye tissue by filtering out harmful light radiation.

How Can You Prevent Injuries?

- Obey workplace warning signs requiring eye protection.
- Always put on protective eyewear before entering an area where hazards may be present.
- Choose safety eyewear that provides maximum protection against hazards.
- Assume eye hazards are present when in doubt.
- Make sure eye protection fits properly and comfortably.
- Inspect protective eyewear before each use, and replace immediately if there are any defects.
- Know where eyewash stations are located and how to use them effectively to flush eyes.
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- Know basic first aid for eye injuries of all kinds.
- Store protective eyewear safely where it won't get scratched or damaged, and keep it clean.
- Ask you before they start a job if they're not sure which type of eye protection is necessary.
- Report potential eye hazards to you immediately.