



STEEL SHARD IN WORKER'S EYE: A REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

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BACKGROUND

On a fall day in the Pacific Northwest a bulldozer operator exited his machine to work on a sweep arm pin on the dozer blade.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The operator's experience and training are unknown.

UNSAFE ACTS AND CONDITIONS / ACCIDENT / INJURY

The operator was hitting the pin with a hammer when two steel shards broke off from the pin. One missed the operator; however, the other shard lodged in his left eye. The bulldozer operator was not wearing protective eyewear. He called a co-worker for assistance, who then transported him to the hospital for emergency treatment. His recovery time and return to work are unknown.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION

We often take everyday activities for granted.

Do a proper assessment of what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is needed prior to performing any work. What are the hazards? What are the risks?

Among other tasks, protective eyewear should also be worn anytime you are:

- Cutting
- Welding
- Hammering
- Chiseling
- Spraying
- Working in an environment involving airborne debris



This Safety Alert analyzes an injury in accordance with the chain of events represented by the five dominoes above. Pioneer industry safety experts H.W. Heinrich and Alfred Lateiner developed this accident analysis system to provide a graphic sense of how injuries can be avoided. Their methodology has been accepted by safety professionals worldwide.

Safety Meeting Report

Topic(s) Discussed:

Comments / Recommendations:

Date:

Company:

Names of Employees Attending:

Meeting Conducted by:

Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.

signature