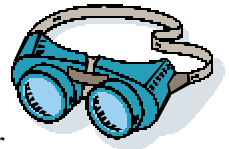




Ohio's AWWA Safety Committee

March - Eye Safety



See your way clear

Have you brushed up lately on the use of eyewash stations and safety showers? More than 13,000 people suffer chemical-related eye injuries each year, and foreign objects hurt another 5,000. If you get something in your eye, you need to start flushing it out immediately.

Please make absolutely sure you know how to do that - how to hold an eyelid open and how to prevent contaminated water from flowing into the other eye, for example. Everyone should be nothing short of an expert on the rules and the procedures. If you're at all uncertain, please ask for training.

April – PPE

Are you up to date?

How persnickety are you about maintaining your safety gear? More to the point, how persnickety are you about your life - or about your family? You could have the best-quality hardhat, or earmuffs, or safety shoes, or goggles, or face shield. But you can't stop there. Liners may tear or rupture, goggles and hard hats may crack; shoes may wear out more quickly than you would have guessed. Be careful not to take equipment for granted. It may seem like yesterday that it was new, but it may be old hat by now. Please check all your gear **every** day. Maintain it like there's no tomorrow. If it's in bad shape, there may BE no tomorrow.



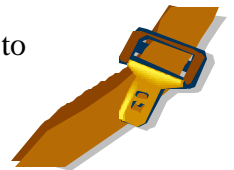
No matter how brief a job may be, don't tempt fate - ALWAYS wear your safety equipment. Injuries just take a second.

May – Seatbelt Safety

Human missiles

Are you keeping yourself, and your family, safe while out on the road? Seatbelt use continues to rise. Still, only 71 percent of us use them, which means that nearly three out of ten don't! To make matters worse, now comes a report saying that those who sit unbuckled in the back seat can pose a deadly threat to those in the front.

In fact, 80 percent of deaths among front-seat riders wearing seatbelts may have been avoidable. The reason: the people in the back became human missiles during accidents and raised the death risk for those up front by almost fivefold. "Unbelted rear-seat occupants...are forced forward into the back of the front seat, and this impact is immense," researchers wrote. They suggested that seatbelt use be mandatory for *everyone* in a vehicle. Sounds like a good idea. Next time people say belts are too confining, tell them what it might feel like being confined to a hospital bed for weeks, months or longer!



June– National Safety Month

Identifying job hazards

You can slip on water near the drinking fountain or even on a paperclip dropped along a waxed floor. Freight can fall, tools can slip, and electrical hazards are everywhere. Please - take the initiative and help identify hazards: Train yourself to observe co-workers and to look for unsafe items and acts. Correct problems yourself and point them out to others. Report unsafe situations or acts. Recommend ways to prevent recurrences. With safety, the watch words are "**communicate**" and "**participate**".

