

## NEAR MISS SAFETY ALERT!

# EYE PROTECTION



A mechanic was using a hammer and a chisel to remove a bit from the blade of a road grader. As he struck the chisel with the hammer, a sliver of metal broke off the chisel and became embedded in the mechanic's safety glasses. The mechanic was not injured.

Miners are regularly exposed to workplace hazards that pose dangers to their eyes. Eye injuries are most often caused by:

- Flying particles
- Chemical splashes, vapors, or dust
- Being stuck by or bumping into an object
- Sparks or molten metal and other hot liquid splashes
- Light radiation from welding

Studies show that 90% of workplace eye injuries can be prevented when proper eye protection is worn. Most injuries occur when a miner is not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident. In other instances, miners were wearing eye protection but the eyewear did not adequately protect against the specific hazard involved.



### BEST PRACTICES

- Don properly rated and properly maintained protective eyewear before working in an area where flying particles may be present, welding, cutting, working with molten metal, working near grinding wheels, riding in open mantrips, or working in any other area where eye hazards may be present.
- Use safety eyewear that provides the maximum protection against the specific hazard (see ANSI Z87.1).
- Ensure eyewear fits properly and comfortably.
- Inspect protective eyewear regularly and replace it if a defect or damage is found.
- Store protective eyewear where it won't become scratched or damaged, and keep it clean.
- Step away from a potential hazard if protective eyewear is removed for cleaning.
- Use antifog material on protective eyewear.