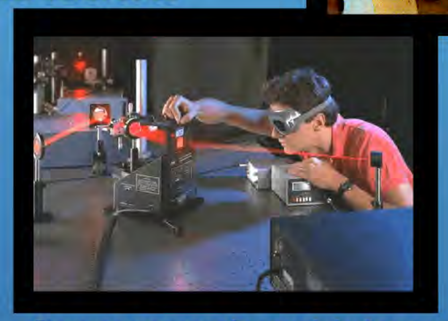
At Work. . .

Every day, an estimated 1,000 eye injuries occur in American workplaces. The financial cost of these injuries is enormous - more than $300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and workers' compensation. No dollar figure can adequately reflect the personal toll these accidents take on the injured workers.

U.S. Department of Labor
Fact Sheet No. OSHA 93-03

Safety eyewear protection includes:

- Non-prescription and prescription safety glasses
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Welding helmets
- Full-face respirators



To help prevent an eye injury:

- Know the eye safety dangers at work - complete an eye hazard assessment.
- Eliminate hazards before starting work. (Use machine guarding, work screens, or other engineering controls.)
- Use proper eye protection.

Common causes for eye injuries are:

- Flying objects (bits of metal, glass)
- Tools
- Particles
- Chemicals
- Harmful radiation
- Any combination of these or other hazards

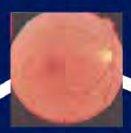
This photographic series records a laser eye injury and its aftermath. The accident occured when a laser research worker accidentally viewed a neodymium: ytrium aluminum garnet (ND:YAG) pumped dye laser with his right eye while aligning the optics along the beam's path; his left eye was not affected.

Immediately after the accident, a large macula hemorrhage can be seen in the fundus of the eye; visual acuity is less than 20/800.

Nine days later, some of the hemorrhage and little edema has resorved , but visual acuity (VA) is still poor.

Fifty-five days after the accident, significantly less hemorrhage and little edema can be seen; VA has improved to 20/60.

Seventy-eight days after the incident, only a small pocket of hemorrhage remains and VA has improved to 20/30.



Nearly six months (177 days) after the accident, the macula appears normal and VA has returned to 20/20.

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