

CHAPTER 19

SIGHT CONSERVATION

1901. Discussion. This section establishes the requirements and responsibilities for the sight conservation program with the basic objective of preventing eye injuries caused by eye-hazard operations. The Safety Office Sight Conservation Program includes the following elements in accordance with reference 19-1:

- a. Identification and evaluation of eye hazardous areas, processes and occupations.
- b. Prescription Protection Eyewear Program.
- c. Provision and maintenance of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at government expense.
- d. An employee training, promotion and emphasis program.
- e. Effective program enforcement.

1902. Scope. This section shall apply to all civilian and military personnel and visitors in the vicinity of eye-hazard operations.

1903. Program Requirements

a. Eye Hazardous Operations. Personnel performing the following eye-hazard operations and personnel within the vicinity of these eye-hazard areas or operations shall wear the appropriate approved eye protection equipment:

- (1) Welding, brazing or soldering.
- (2) Use of lathes, air hammers, drill presses, power saws, sanders and operation of any other equipment or tool that cuts, grinds or forms wood, metal, plastic or concrete.
- (3) Fastening operations such as nailing, riveting and heavy duty stapling.
- (4) Use of compressed air for cleaning when reduced to less than 30 PSI, and with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment (Not a recommended cleaning method).

- (5) Handling containers or working with corrosive liquids, cleaning solvents or powdered materials.
- (6) Installing or removing steel banding (strapping).
- (7) Weight testing of slings, cranes or similar equipment.
- (8) Paint removal operations using chemical or mechanical methods.
- (9) Using wire cutters or bolt cutters.
- (10) Working on or near batteries.
- (11) Any other known eye-hazard operation not mentioned above.

b. Posting of Eye-Hazard Areas. All areas designated as eye hazardous shall be posted with the appropriate warning sign. Eye-hazard warning signs shall be located at all entrances to the designated area, if practical.

c. Emergency Eyewash Equipment. Emergency eyewash units meeting the requirements of ANSI-Z358.1-1990 shall be provided in all areas where the eyes of any employee may be exposed to corrosive materials.

- (1) All emergency eyewash locations shall be identified with a highly visible sign.

- (2) Each emergency eyewash unit shall be easily accessible to personnel.

- (3) Plumbed eyewash units shall be activated weekly, for a minimum of 3 minutes, to flush the line and to verify proper operation.

- (4) A record, log or tag shall be used to document weekly inspections of eyewash units.

- (5) Pressurized and non-pressurized self-contained eye wash units shall be serviced quarterly or per the manufacture's recommendations, whichever is less. Quarterly maintenance shall include cleaning of the unit, replacement of water, and checking for proper operation. A quarterly record should be maintained to document inspections.

(6) Activities shall only use self-contained eyewash units on a temporary basis until permanent emergency eyewash facilities are installed or at remote locations where water is not readily available. Activities shall not use personal eyewash units.

d. Visitors. Suitable eye protection devices shall be available at entry to shop locations for visitors. Personnel escorting visitors through eye hazard areas shall be responsible for ensuring that the visitors wear the approved eye protection equipment. These common use devices shall be kept clean and sanitary.

e. First Aid Measures. Chemical burns of the eye require immediate flushing of the eye for at least 15 minutes with potable water. Attempts should not be made to remove a particle lodged in the eye, or to wash any eye that has been cut in any way. A clean dressing can be placed lightly over the eye until the victim receives medical help. Cold compresses should be applied to a bruised eye.

f. Maintenance of Protective Eyewear. Personal protective eyewear shall be maintained in a clean and fully operational condition. The eyewear furnished under the sight conservation program is the property of the Department of the Navy and shall be repaired or replaced if damaged in the course of employment. Damage to the protective eyewear shall be reported to the employee's supervisor.

g. Temporary Protective Eyewear. Planos, goggles or faceshields shall be provided to employees while awaiting delivery of corrective-protective eyewear.

h. Corrective Protective Eyewear. The servicing medical treatment facility and the employee's supervisor must approve procurement of prescription safety eyewear. All corrective protective eyewear must meet the requirements of reference 19-2.

1904. Responsibilities

a. Supervisors shall:

(1) Ensure that all personnel (including visitors) exposed to eye hazards wear an approved eye protection device.

(2) Ensure that all protective eyewear is maintained in a clean and fully operational condition.

(3) Ensure personnel are properly trained, know the location of the nearest eyewash unit and are instructed in the proper operation of that eyewash unit.

(4) Notify the Safety Office of any new eye hazard operations.

(5) Schedule and ensure personnel attend initial sight conservation training. Maintain records as required by Chapter 6 of this instruction.

(6) Fund, review and sign requests for corrective-protective eyewear and consult with supply and the servicing medical treatment facility to determine the most suitable procurement procedures when prescription eyewear is required. When Navy medicine provides these services, all medical forms and evaluations must be documented according to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Manual of Medical Department, NAVMED P117.

(7) Ensure appropriate disciplinary action is taken if eyewear has been willfully damaged, altered or lost through negligence, or if personnel are not responding to the provisions of the program.

b. Personnel shall:

(1) Wear the required protective eyewear when entering or working in eye-hazard areas or engaged in eye-hazard operations.

(2) Know the location of the nearest eyewash unit and how to operate the unit.

(3) Maintain personal protective eyewear in a clean and fully operational condition.

c. Safety Office shall:

(1) Conduct a survey of all work areas, processes, and occupations to determine those with eye hazards requiring eye protection. Maintain a listing of these areas.

(2) Recommend the type of protective equipment required and the personnel affected.

(3) Determine signs and warning posters needed.

(4) Re-evaluate previously designated eye hazard areas after new processes are adopted, or after modifications have been made to existing processes. Annual workplace inspections and re-

evaluations shall determine the continuing need for eye protection.

(5) Retain and review eye injury records as an additional check on the identification of areas, processes and occupations where potential eye hazards may exist.

(6) Provide sight conservation training and education for personnel.

REFERENCES

CHAPTER 19

- 19-1.1 OPNAVINST 5100.23 (Series), Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program Manual
- 19-1.2 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1, American National Standard for Eye and Face Protection, Latest revision, (NOTAL)