

## **"SAY AYE TO EYE PROTECTION"**

In these days of rising prices, there is still one bargain to be found - eye protection. A relatively few dollars buys the safety equipment that can protect your eyes from such on-the-job hazards as dust, glare, and flying objects. But while such protective equipment as safety goggles, glasses, and face shields is easily affordable, eye injury or loss is expensive to the victim of the accident and the company that employs him/her.

The comparative cost of eye protection is small. After all, how much is an eye worth? However, I'm sure that many eye injuries are not the result of lack of protection. Rather, they result from not using the eye protection provided. This protection is not used due to many feeble excuses - none of which is legitimate.

The highest price for on-the-job eye accidents is paid by the victim of such an accident. First, he must endure certain financial setbacks. During his recuperation, Workers' Compensation would pay him only a percentage of his weekly wage.

This probably wouldn't allow him to support himself and his family at their current standard of living. He might have to move into cheaper housing, cut back on food and other items, or become hopelessly behind on time payments.

If a man is unfortunate enough to lose the sight of an eye, he may not have a job to come back to. Many jobs are just too detailed for a man with one eye to handle. In this case, he would lose his potential earnings on that job from the time of the accident until his retirement, which could amount to several hundred thousand dollars, depending on his age and income.

Weekly compensation payments can do little to console the injured worker. He has lost his occupation and all its potential earning power and must begin all over again to build an occupational future to ensure financial security for himself and his family.

Perhaps the steepest price the victim of an eye accident must pay is in personal suffering. The pain and shock he must endure cannot be calculated in terms of dollars and cents. If he loses the sight of both eyes, he has lost a whole way of life—a way of perceiving beauty, of self-sufficiency and independence, all of which are priceless. That's the price that you, the employee, must pay.

The company, in addition to accident cost setbacks, must be concerned about the effect of the accident on employee morale. If one employee suffers an eye injury, the rest of the employees may become jittery to a point where more accidents will follow. Also, they may not feel like working up to their full capacity, which would result in lower production levels.

Thus, an unprotected eye can be a painful and expensive proposition to the victim and to the employer. So, wear eye protection. An unguarded moment may result in tragedy. And what would make it even more tragic is if the accident occurred while ample eye protection was resting on the victim's forehead instead of over his eyes.