

## **TOOLBOX TALK #9**

### **APPRECIATE THE DANGER – EYE INJURIES**

Providing workers with appropriate eye protection is critical to injury prevention. However, this does not necessarily mean workers will use the provided PPE. Workers and employers need to realize the hazards involved. Many workers incorrectly believe one type of PPE will protect them from all eye injuries. Some workers even believe their corrective eye wear can protect them from injury thus giving them a false sense of security.

Employers need to train their workers on the proper eye protection for each hazard. For example, a construction worker who readily wears safety glasses while performing carpentry work may be unaware that eye protection must be worn when working with cement, which in powder or wet form can cause severe alkaline burns. Follow these guidelines when updating or creating your eye safety program:

- Review applicable OSHA eye safety standards and learn about common eye safety hazards in the construction industry.
- Identify hazard sources by walking through a work area and speaking with employees, including asking about hazards at all times of the day.
- Evaluate ways to mitigate eye safety hazards at the root cause, reducing the need for employees to use PPE.
- Check the ANSI standards for each hazard to determine appropriate eye protection.
- Consult with workers on their eye wear preferences, and offer a variety of styles and sizes to increase the likelihood that employees will find the eye wear appealing.
- Incorporate employee input into training programs and written eye safety plans.
- Ensure supervisors and health and safety staff serve as role models when implementing or updating an eye safety plan by wearing the same eye protection as employees.

