

Lessons Learned



Date: August 27, 2021

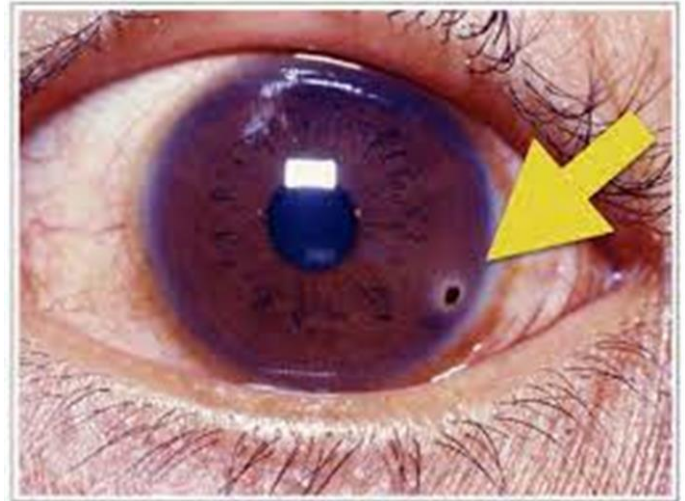
Region: Denver

Project: Larimer County Jail

Incident Title: Metal Debris in Eye

Summary

While installing a label on a pipe, a foreign object got in behind an employee's safety glasses and into his eye. Employee immediately flushed his eye with an eye wash solution and reported the incident. However, his irritation persisted, and the employee was taken to the clinic. The clinic removed a tiny bit of metal from the eye. Employee was released back to work for full duty and instructed to return for a follow-up due to the formation of a rust ring. Rust rings are common with metal objects in the eyes, as tears can cause the metal to rust resulting in a stain on the cornea.



What Went Right?

- Eye wash was readily available and used.
- Safety was notified immediately.
- Employee was taken to a clinic and received medical attention that removed a metal particle from his eye.

What Went Wrong?

- A gust of wind allowed the debris to swirl around his safety glasses and enter the employee's eye.
- The breezes allowed through the building wasn't identified as a possible hazard.
- The metal object in the eye resulted in a rust ring.

Lessons Learned

- **Open doors and windows during the hot summer months invites and often results in a cooling breeze through a very hot building. This breeze is a welcome relief during a 90+ temperature day.**
- **Cross ventilation often creates mini whirl winds that carry tiny debris. Standard safety glasses will not protect you from swirling debris, goggles or a tight foam fitted "Spoggle type" safety glass must be worn to ensure protection during these conditions.**
- **The tiniest piece of metal in an eye can rust and form a rust ring on the cornea. Rust rings generally disappear on their own, but if not, the stain may need to be removed so vision is not impaired.**