Date:	May 2020
Category:	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
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Incident Description

A recent ND recordable injury occurred when an employee was struck in the eye by a sliver of wood resulting in a corneal abrasion. The employee was wearing a mask that caused his safety glasses to fog up. He stepped a few feet away from the work area to remove and clear his glasses. While doing so, a fellow co-worker in the area struck a board with a hammer causing a piece of wood to fracture from the work surface and strike the employee's eye.

Lessons Learned

♦ Do not remove PPE while in an area where you or others are working.

♦ Following CDC guidelines for wearing face masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus may increase the need to deal with the unexpected consequences of foggy lenses. Below are suggestions that can help prevent your glasses from fogging.

Put a tissue inside the top of the mask

Fold a tissue horizontally and put it between your face and the top of your mask—so that it sits over the bridge of your nose. The moisture from your breath will be absorbed by the tissue instead of hitting your glasses.

Wash your glasses with soapy water

Shake off the excess water and let them air dry or gently dry them with a soft tissue. The soap leaves behind a thin film that helps prevent fogging. Shaving cream can also work.

DO NOT use hand sanitizer as it may damage the lenses.

Pull your mask up

A simple way to decrease the amount of fog on your glasses is to pull your mask higher on your face and use the weight of your glasses on top of the mask to block the flow of air.

References: Versant Health

All safety communications can be found at https://riskmanagement.nd.edu/communication/.