

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Incident: An associate who was wearing rubber-sealed safety glasses, a face shield and a respirator was chipping carbon buildup out of a pipe when he felt something in his eye.

Possible contributing factors:

- The wind was blowing toward the worker and there was no other location for performing the task to keep the wind at his back.
- Soot, chipped material and debris are always coming from the vent pipe and when the inspection port is opened.
- The task requires the worker to stand in front of the open inspection port.
- The task must be completed when oven is pushed and is not wind dependent.
- The task is performed 6-8 feet from the flame at the top of the vent pipe – a high-heat environment that causes excessive sweating, especially when the wind is blowing in front.
- The worker tried a full face respirator but it did not hold up in the heat.
- When worn with a respirator, the rubber-sealed glasses may not fit properly.

Primary contributing factors:

- When worn with a respirator, the rubber-sealed glasses may not fit properly.
- The task is performed 6-8 feet from the flame at the top of the vent pipe – a high-heat environment that causes excessive sweating, especially when the wind is blowing in front.

Possible solutions:

- Use a full-face respirator to ensure the proper fit/seal.
- Use a different combination of safety glasses and respirator.
- Use disposable sweat bands.
- Make sure you have the right PPE before starting work. If your PPE isn't protecting you as it should, see your supervisor.

Action plan:

- A powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) is being investigated for use in high-heat conditions.
- Different styles of respirators and glasses are being investigated and field-tested.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Chad Metzger, Lima, 419/279-5348 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.



An example of safety glasses that do not fit properly when worn with this respirator.