

Worker sustains eye injury

Corneal Abrasion

A worker was moving around the plant emptying dust bins. As he got out of the cab to empty the bin, he looked up and a 25mm rock bounced off the bin and hit the worker in the eye. The worker was not wearing eye protection.

The worker received a scratch and burst blood vessels to his eye. Upon getting checked at the medical centre the scratch was said to be only millimetres from hitting the pupil within his eye.

The task of emptying the dust bins requires the use of safety glasses. The operator was issued with a new pair of safety glasses that morning of the injury, however was not wearing them.



More than 10% of all incidents reported to MinEx are a direct result of workers failing to follow procedures, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Anecdotal evidence suggests that many more incidents are contributed to by workers deliberately not following procedures. Wherever possible higher-level controls should be used, and at the very least, worker compliance should be monitored.

You need to ensure that:

- **Safe work procedures and/or risk assessments are understood by all workers and are adequately supervised, and tasks observed, to ensure risk controls are in place and are effective.**
- **Appropriate PPE is provided and used by workers. Workers should be trained in the use and importance of PPE.**
- **Ensure workers know what to do in the event of dust or foreign objects entering an eye.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

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