

EYE INJURY - Foreign body scratches a fitter's eye whilst angle grinding

WHAT HAPPENED

A fitter was using a handheld angle grinder, he was working outside alongside a second operative and was positioned below the bolt that was being cut. He was wearing darkened safety glasses which did not seal around the entire eye. Shortly after commencing the activity, he felt something in his eye. A general maintenance risk assessment had identified the use of a face visor.

A first aider applied eye wash, and the fitter was taken to hospital where it was identified that the cornea had been scratched.

The fitter was trained in the use of an angle grinder, the appropriate isolation and permit to work were in place.

This was not a lost time incident.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Risk assessments must encompass every step of an activity on that day. Walk and talk the activity through in its entirety to ensure all the hazards are identified and suitable controls are agreed and in place.
- Share the information contained in this link to the HSE's guidance on using the right type of PPR <https://www.hse.gov.uk/ppe/using-the-right-type-of-ppe.htm>
- Store PPE such that it cannot be easily damaged (e.g. scratched visor), it is protected and easily accessible.

This image below shows an example of inappropriate eye protection; it does not seal the eye to prevent materials from entering the eye.



An example of suitable eye/face protection when using an angle grinder that allows the use of a hard hat.



LOCATION:	COMPANY-WIDE	ALERT STATUS:	Normal
ACTIVITY:	POWER TOOLS AND BATTERY SAFETY	DATE ISSUED:	07/10/2025 21:04:34
SUB ACTIVITY:	NO SUB ACTIVITY AVAILABLE	INCIDENT No:	04936