

Decontamination Stations – HSE Topic



Health, Safety, and Environmental



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Purpose

- ◆ To establish the minimum requirements for decontamination of particulate debris from PPE & clothing
- ◆ Promote and communicate a safety culture on all Fluor projects of aggressive reporting and treatment of eye incidents no matter how small and avoidance of such injuries through decontamination procedures.
- ◆ To Keep Our Employees from Getting Hurt!

Decontamination procedures are required to reduce the amount and location of debris that can accumulate on clothing and PPE during work activities and prevent eye incidents by removing before they leave at the jobsite.

OSHA Fact Sheet – United States

- ◆ EYE PROTECTION IN THE WORKPLACE
- ◆ Fact Sheet No. OSHA 93-03
- ◆ Every day an estimated 1,000 eye injuries occur in American workplaces.
- ◆ The financial cost of these injuries is enormous -- more than \$300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and workers compensation.

Decontamination Station



Decontamination Procedures – Southern Company Sites

- ◆ Use the brush to remove gross contamination from coveralls / clothing.
- ◆ Run fingers through hair with eyes closed and head down to further remove loose particles.
- ◆ Use a vacuum to thoroughly remove debris from the head and clothing. The vacuum should be dedicated to personal decontamination procedures and not be used for other cleaning activities.
- ◆ Use the buddy system as a final check, if another PPE protected employee is available at the jobsite, to ensure a thorough decontamination is accomplished.
- ◆ Wash hands and face with soap and water to remove particles / debris. When running water is not present, employees may use moist towelettes for hand and face washing.
- ◆ The purpose of decontamination is to prevent incidental exposure of material from the jobsite entering the eye during non-job related activities, and cross contamination of permanent living areas that could affect other employees.

In Practice

- ◆ Keep PPE ON!
- ◆ Run Hands through Hair
- ◆ Soft Bristle Brushes
- ◆ Vacuums
- ◆ Make the Effort



Resulting Improvement on Southern Company Projects

- ◆ Numbers based upon total eye cases, including first aid cases, for the all the Southern Company projects
- ◆ January 2014 through July 2014 - total eye cases = 71
- ◆ January 2015 through July 2015 - total eye cases = 10
- ◆ Reduction = 61 cases or 86% reduction in eye cases since the implementation of Decontamination Stations

Eye Protection Personal Protective Equipment Decon Station Procedures

Why decontaminate? – To reduce the amount and location of fine debris that can accumulate on clothing and PPE during work activities.

What types of work can generate debris? – Welding, grinding, buffing, chipping, sanding, insulation, and handling chemicals are just a few.

Where does it accumulate? – Head, face, caps, hair, clothing, scaffold landings, beams, structures, tops of glasses / goggles / face shields.

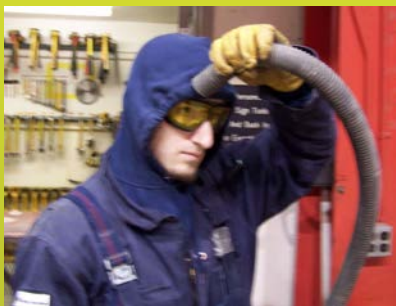
Proper Steps for Decontamination of Eye Protection PPE:



Step 1: Use a soft bristle brush or vacuum brush attachment to sweep/remove debris starting at the top of the head and move down the body. Caution: Do not sweep toward the eyes!



Step 2: Use a shop vacuum to remove debris from the head and clothing. **Do not** use air hoses to blow debris off. This creates an airborne hazard. Use the buddy system to remove accumulated debris from the head & body



Step 3: Decon the following areas before removing eye protection:
welding hood, face shield, welding cap, top of glasses or goggles, eye brows, gloves, shirt collar & sleeves



Step 4: During removal of PPE and clothing, always close your eyes.



Step 5: Close eyes and run fingers through hair to remove any loose particles.



Step 6: Decon & store PPE in a clean environment. Do not use or put on dirty PPE. Keep PPE as clean as possible and in good condition.

Remember to use good personal hygiene practices. Wash your hands, face and eyebrows with soap and water

Aggressive First Aid Requirements for Eye Injuries

The intent of aggressive first aid is to prevent an injury from getting worse due to delayed or untimely treatment. All employees are required to immediately report injuries to their supervisor, regardless of time or perceived severity. All Eye Injuries must be checked out by the Safety Dept. immediately. Please report any vision problems, discomfort, or potential exposures to your supervisor and/or safety immediately. If you are in doubt as to whether or not something has actually entered into your eyes, do not wait until you feel signs of irritation or discomfort; report the incident to your supervisor immediately. If you are exposed to a hazard where material enters into your eyes and your body's natural defenses (blinking, tears, etc.) have removed the material from your eyes; report the incident immediately to your supervisor.