



## February 5 — PPE Nearby Isn't PPE Worn

<b>Co-worker had safety glasses around his neck and not on his face. Then proceeded to start cutting unistrut with a bandsaw</b>	<b>Immediately stopped the individual and made him put safety glasses on properly</b>
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A co-worker had safety glasses hanging around his neck instead of on his face and then began cutting unistrut with a bandsaw.

The glasses were technically present, but functionally useless. Cutting metal with a bandsaw creates chips, sparks, and fragments that move fast and unpredictably. Once the cut starts, there's no time to react. Eye protection only works when it's on before the tool is energized not after something flies.

**Glasses on the neck won't stop a spark,  
When metal flies fast in the dark.  
Put them on before you start,  
To keep sharp shards from finding heart.**

This wasn't a lack of equipment. It was a gap between preparation and action.

### Hazards

- Eye injuries from flying metal fragments
- Permanent vision damage
- Facial injuries from debris or tool kickback
- Secondary injuries from startle reaction
- Equipment damage from uncontrolled movement

### Stats

- Eye injuries are among the most common industrial injuries
- Many eye injuries occur when PPE is available but not worn correctly
- Metal cutting operations generate high-velocity particles
- OSHA requires eye protection whenever there is potential for flying debris

### Words of Wisdom

- PPE on your neck protects nothing.
- If the tool is on, your PPE should already be on.

### Pause and Think

Most PPE failures don't come from refusal they come from timing. People plan to put PPE on "in a second," but that second disappears once the tool starts. The danger window is always at the beginning of the task. That's when habits matter most.

- When do we tend to delay putting PPE on?
- What tasks feel "too quick" to suit up for?
- How do we build the habit of PPE before action?