There are no second chances when it comes to your eyes

The human eye, face and respiratory system are by nature soft and vulnerable, particularly in the harsh, gritty world of electric arc welding. Many welding and cutting procedures emit dangerous light radiation.

Eye injuries alone cost more than $300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses, and worker compensation\(^1\). The most common eye injuries from UV/IR radiation are retinal burns and flash burns to the cornea. These high intensity light injuries are preventable when the proper protection is worn and used accordingly. Different applications require different protection, and it is critical to choose the equipment that is most appropriate for your job situation.

\(^1\) Source: www.osha.gov/SLTC/eyefaceprotection (01.03.2017)

**Arc-eye** occurs when the surface of the eye is exposed to excessive ultraviolet (UV) radiation – usually when an arc is accidentally struck while the welding helmet is in the up position or the eyes are otherwise unprotected. Long-term over-exposure to arc radiation is linked to retinal burns, cataracts and skin cancer.

**Foreign body eye injuries** occur when material such as dust, grinding swarf or weld spatter gets into the eye. When a particle(s) penetrates the outer layer of the eye and enters the eye it is called a penetrating foreign body. These particles or objects are usually traveling at high speed and are commonly made of metal. A penetrating eye injury can be extremely serious, leading to blindness if not detected and treated promptly.
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OSHA Standard 1910.133
Primary eye protection (ex. safety spectacles) should always be used with secondary eye/face protection (ex. welding helmet or faceshield).