

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0032
Subject:	Chemical Burn to Eye
Date:	February 2008

Incident:

A forklift operator picked up a jig that was soaked from rain. Water dripped from the jig onto the workers face. As the worker removed his safety glasses (which incorporated a foam brow seal) and wiped the water from his face, it is believed that he wiped some into his eye.

The worker experienced swelling and pain developing in his eye and required medical treatment for minor chemical burns. It is concluded that the water had been contaminated with chemical residues the jig had collected during the previous manufacturing cycle.



**Style of foam bound glasses
worn at time of incident**

Key Lessons:

- ***To alert all workers of the hazards when working with rain soaked products or jigs that may have chemical residues.***

Recommendations:

- **Avoid wiping water from face into or across the eyes.**
- **Always assume that any water accumulating on products or jigs is contaminated.**
- **Avoid any contact with water dripping from jigs or products.**

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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