April is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) awareness month

This month the Department of Chemical Engineering is making an emphasis on PPE.

Please encourage all of your lab members to wear proper PPE.

Lead by example and make sure you are protecting yourself from possible harm.

Don’t be afraid to let others know when they are not wearing proper PPE.

Did you know?

• A recent departmental survey of the past three years showed that 50% of all reported accidents were chemical splashes to the eyes.

• If you are a full time employee (Post-docs, Staff, and faculty) of Penn State, the university may cover the cost for your prescription safety glasses. If you want more information about how to get your prescription safety glasses please contact Roger Dunlap (rdunlap@engr.psu.edu).

• The department is in the process of making prescription safety glasses more accessible for graduate students. More information will be available in next month’s safety newsletter as well at the Chemical Engineering safety website.

Don’t forget

Annual safety inspections will be conducted by EHS on April 23rd. Make sure your lab is up to date on all safety codes.

Questions or concerns? (814) 863-4800

Emergency? Call 911

Choosing the Correct Eye Protection

Safety Glasses

Safety glasses are the minimum requirement for working in the laboratory. The glasses are impact resistant and must have side shields. Standard streetwear eyeglasses fitted with side shields are not sufficient; however, prescription safety glasses are acceptable. Safety glasses do not provide adequate protection from significant chemical splashes. They do not seal to the face, resulting in gaps at the top, bottom and sides, where chemicals may seep through. Safety glasses may be adequate when the potential splash is minimal.

Safety Goggles

Safety goggles should be worn when there is potential for a splash from hazardous materials. Like safety glasses, goggles are impact resistant. Safety goggles should have indirect ventilation so hazardous substances cannot drain into the eye area. Some may be worn over prescription glasses.

Face Shields

Face shields are needed when working with large volumes of hazardous materials, either for protection from a chemical splash or flying particles. Safety glasses or goggles must be worn under face shields.

Laser Protective Eyewear

These glasses are impact resistant eyeglasses with side shields that protect eyes against intense ultraviolet, infrared or visible light. Refer to the manufacturer’s recommendations regarding the proper shading for the desired wavelength of laser. Even if you are wearing laser protective eyewear, never look directly into any laser beam.