



Date: October 23, 2020

Subject: Eyewash Use

What Happened:

Yesterday, an employee working on a location experienced an eye injury:

He was outside and had just finished running the meal waste through the grinder and was washing out the bucket. Some of the liquid, which contained a chili sauce, splashed into his eye, even though he was wearing safety glasses.

He was in pain and went to find an eyewash station and there wasn't one. He remembered that the laundry had some eyewash and went there. But, because he was unable to read the bottle due to the pain, he asked a hand nearby if the solution was what he should use. This hand read part of the label and said it was eyewash, and he could use it. He didn't read the part of the label that said it was a concentrate, to be diluted in solution (8 oz per 5 gallons of water: about 80 times the normal strength).

As a result, our teammate used the eyewash in concentrated form and his eye became inflamed, tender, and painful to the extent that he came in on the following day. He was checked by the doctor and there were no ulcers or any other damage so he will be fine.

What We Learned:

We need to always wear safety goggles, not just glasses, when processing waste at the grinder. Safety glasses are great, but don't provide complete coverage against any kind of debris thrown with the force of a grinder. Always wear goggles when working at the grinder or compactor.

Be sure that your eyewash station is stocked with the correct eyewash. This should be a ready-to-use product with an eyecup. A concentrate should never be easily available; it should be stored with the medic or someone trained to use the product. Otherwise, in an emergency when someone reaches for eyewash, a similar event can occur.

What To Do:

Be sure that you have goggles or a face shield on hand. If not, please order one immediately.

Verify that your eyewash station does not include concentrated eyewash solution. If you do not have a ready-to-use eyewash, please order some immediately and locate it prominently in the galley.