

Eye Injury Prevention Quick Facts

- Serious ocular trauma from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom was the second most common combat injury and follows only hearing loss, with 16% of all casualties suffering ocular trauma and/or injury, ranging from distorted vision to blindness.¹
- From Oct. 1, 2001, through Dec. 31, 2011, a total of 97,600 new Veterans with Military-related eye injuries entered the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health system, according to the VA Office of Public Health.
- In the United States, more than 2,000 eye injuries occur every day², and 100 of these injuries result in one or more days of lost work:³
 - Employees reported more than 27,000 lost days of work due to eye injuries⁴
 - 60% of injured workers lacked appropriate eye protection at the time of the accident
- Over 90% of eye injuries are preventable with proper precautions and effective eye protection.⁵

References:

- ¹DoD Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR), Volume 18, No. 5, Eye Injuries, Active Component, U.S. Armed Forces 2000-2010 pp. 2-7, May 2011
- ²[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- ³[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- ⁴[United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- ⁵Ibid.