

UTILITIES & ENERGY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Prescription Safety Glasses Policy

Utilities Employees in job titles that require individualized personal protective equipment (PPE) such as prescription safety glasses, as identified by the Director of Utilities, will be required to wear the appropriate eye protection when work operations warrant their use.

The use of eye protection is one type of personal protective equipment that many Utilities employees must wear to ensure safe working conditions. Employees must wear safety glasses whenever they run a reasonable probability of eye injury resulting from work being performed, including work that involves hazards from objects or debris that can come into contact with the eye. If the work does include airborne hazards, then eye protection with side shields must be used.

The prescription safety glasses program was established to make it easier for employees who wear glasses to comply with minimum eye protection requirements during their normal work operations and to increase their comfort while wearing the eye protection. Prescription safety glasses with non-detachable side-shields shall be provided to employees performing construction, maintenance, or other work where there is potential eye injury due to airborne particle hazards. Side shields are not to be removed from prescription safety glasses issued by the Utilities department.

Safety glasses (prescription or non-prescription) with side shields do not provide protection against chemical splash or spray. Employees who obtain prescription safety glasses should still wear splash goggles or a face shield over their glasses for situations that warrant an increased level of protection.

Employees who wear prescription lenses while engaged in operations that involve eye hazards **MUST** wear eye protection that either incorporates the prescription in its design, or can be worn over the prescription lenses without disturbing the proper position of the prescription lenses or the protective lenses (e.g. safety goggles).

Prescription safety glasses must carry an ANSI Z87.1 rating to qualify as prescription safety glasses for purposes of this policy. Ordinary prescription eyeglasses are not safety glasses and are not allowed as a substitution for proper eye protection.

Employees will be made aware of the policy and procedures governing prescription safety glasses and their care. The employee's immediate supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the employee properly wears the prescription safety glasses designated for that person's assigned duties.

Utilities will provide up to \$140.00 per employee towards the cost of the prescription safety glasses. Employees are not limited to prescription safety glasses costing this amount or less; however, they must pay any additional cost over \$140.00. **It is the responsibility of employees to provide the eyewear provider with an updated prescription from their optometrist.**

Prescription safety glasses will be replaced only if a new prescription is required or if the glasses need to be replaced due to scratches or wear and tear. A signed authorization from the Assistant/Associate Director or Safety Coordinator will be required for all such changes.

Each employee required to use prescription safety glasses will sign the prescription safety glasses policy agreement when the glasses are purchased. Failure to wear the prescribed safety glasses in accordance with this policy may result in progressive disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.