|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| RECORD OF TOOL BOX TALK | |
| Workplace: | Date: |
| Name of supervisor or presenter: | Time: |
| Topics discussed: Chemical burns to the eyes | |
| **Chemical burns to the eyes (including petrol, diesel and other workshop chemicals)**  Liquid or powder splashes from chemicals may seriously damage the eye. In many cases, prompt, and thorough rinsing of the eye (with saline or fresh water), dramatically reduces the risk of injury and long-term damage. It’s often better to go straight to the nearest tap than to wait for saline from the first aid kit.  **First aid suggestions include**:   * Hold your face under running water for 15 to 20 minutes and allow the water stream to flood into your eyes. Use your fingers to hold your eyelids apart (make sure there is no trace of the chemical on your fingers). * If you wear contact lenses, remove them as soon as possible. * **Seek immediate medical advice**. Medical staff will need to know what chemical was involved, particularly whether it was acid or alkaline, liquid or powder. Take the chemical container or a photo of the container to the treating specialist. * Do not judge the seriousness of your eye injury on the degree of pain. For example, alkali chemicals don’t usually cause significant symptoms, but can seriously damage the eye. * Powder or particulate chemicals can be particularly damaging since they are more difficult to flush out.   **Symptoms of chemical burns to the eye**. The symptoms of a chemical burn depend on the substance splashed into the eyes, but may include:   * stinging * a burning sensation * redness * pain * swelling of the eyelids * blurry vision * watery eyes.  **Self-care after a chemical burn to the eye** Be guided by your doctor or healthcare professional, but general suggestions include:   * Don’t drive a vehicle while you’re wearing an eye patch. * Use medication strictly as directed. * Attend all follow-up appointments. * See your doctor or eye specialist straight away if you have new symptoms, such as eye pain, redness, photophobia (intolerance of light) or blurry vision   Estimates suggest that about 90% of chemical burns to the eye are avoidable. Wear PPE eye protection every time you handle liquid or powder chemicals. | |