

Safety Meeting Flash Burns



Company: _____ Presenter: _____ Date: _____

Flash burns are the result of looking at the flame of an acetylene torch without proper protective eye shields. The blueish flame emits an intense ultraviolet light which can cause a sunburn and corneal flash burns. (Snow-blindness occurs similarly as a response to natural ultraviolet light reflecting off snow.)

Just as the effects of a sunburn may not be immediate, the discomfort from corneal flash burns may not be immediate and may take more than 12 hours to develop.

A corneal flash burn can be intensely painful. The eye pain will generally resolve within two to three days. Other symptoms include redness, tearing, light sensitivity, and blurred vision. Fortunately, corneal flash burns will heal without any long-term damage.

An Eye doctor or ophthalmologist can help relieve the suffering from corneal flash burns. Prescription oral pain medications are often necessary. Patching the eyes can also provide some comfort. Cold compresses and frequent use of viscous artificial tears can be helpful. Sometimes, a topical steroid eye drop can help relieve the associated inflammation .

Employee Signatures

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