**Eye Injury Prevention Month**

The best way to prevent eye injuries (90% of them) is also the easiest: wear protective eyewear—so says the American Academy of Ophthalmology. But almost half of eye injuries occur at home, from repair or yard work, cleaning, or cooking. The injury rate likely corresponds with another statistic: 65% of us fail to use protective eyewear for our activities. Including our games: more than 40% of eye injuries each year are sports related. Eye protection on the job is mandated by OSHA, with specific standards for shipyard, longshoring, and construction workers. Recently, an OSHA investigation of a metal worker injury in a Massachusetts plant resulted in a substantial fine. Among other violations, a portable grinder was not properly guarded and set up, leading an OSHA official to point out that the hazards of portable hand tools can be equal to large machinery.

American Academy of Ophthalmology (Preventing Eye Injuries) - [www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/living/preventing-eye-injuries.cfm](http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/living/preventing-eye-injuries.cfm)


**Focus360° on October 3-7**

"Employers have the potential to reach up to one-half of the nation's population, and their support in our fight to stop distracted driving is crucial," says Ray LaHood, US Secretary of Transportation. Employers could make "Drive Safely Work Week" (October 3-7) a time to address the hazards of distracted driving. A week of activities can be planned using a toolkit put together by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) and the US Department of Transportation. The toolkit offers ideas and activities from the perspective not only of the driver but of a passenger, pedestrian, or cyclist.

NETS (Drive Safely Work Week) - [http://trafficsafety.org/drivesafelyworkweek/](http://trafficsafety.org/drivesafelyworkweek/)

**National Data Shows Variations in Smoking, Cancer**

Even with generally declining smoking rates, most deaths from lung cancer are still caused by cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. The 50 states vary widely in their incidence of lung cancer (which is the leading cause of cancer death in the US), as summarized in a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) based on CDC data from 1999-2008. Variations among states also appear in smoking behavior and programs and policies to control tobacco use.

MMWR (State-Specific Trends in Lung Cancer Incidence and Smoking-United States, 1999-2008) - [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6036a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6036a3.htm)

**First OSHA Instruction Related to Workplace Violence**

OSHA field office staff now have guidance for conducting inspections related to workplace violence. In September the agency for the first time issued procedures for reviewing these incidents, which occur more often in workplaces such as healthcare and social service settings and late-night retail establishments.