

October 23, 2009

<b>DIRECTIVE:</b> JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 09-29
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**TO:**                    ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
                          ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
                          ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
                          ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
                          ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
                          ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

**FROM:**               LYNN A. INTREPIDI  
                          Interim National Director  
                          Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:**           Welding-Related Eye Injuries at Job Corps Centers

1.     Purpose. To inform Job Corps centers about the ongoing incidents of welding-related student eye injuries and provide guidance on preventing them.

2.     Background. Between September 2008 and July 2009, the National Office of Job Corps issued two Information Notices intended to prevent repeated occurrences of welding-related student injuries. Unfortunately, centers continue to report such student injuries, specifically welding-related eye injuries, as evidenced by the continued submission of Significant Incident Reports (SIRs) describing incidents involving emergency medical treatment and follow-up care. The incidents described were most often the result of the student's failure to wear proper eye protection or ill-fitting eye protection. There appears to be an ever-increasing need for more supervision of welding activities, use of proper-fitting eye and face protection, and adequately shaded welding goggles or welding helmets with auto-darkening lenses.

3.     Action. Job Corps center operators, center directors, safety officers, and welding trade instructors shall take the following actions:

- a.     Review welding instructor performance standards to ensure instructors are held accountable for oversight of student safety.
- b.     Review and execute the actions set forth in Job Corps Information Notice 08-18, *Preventing Arc Eye and Other Welding Injuries*, issued September 17, 2008, and Job Corps Information Notice 09-01, *Preventing Welding Injuries*, issued on July 10, 2009.

- c. Inspect the eye and face protection used in the welding career technical trade to ensure that it meets the performance standards set forth in American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1-2003, ANSI Z87.1-1989 (R-1998), or ANSI Z87.1-1989. Items that do not meet the current performance standards should be removed from service immediately and replaced as soon as possible.
- d. Review the following resources to ensure that students are provided with personal protective equipment appropriate for the welding trade.
  - (1) Utah Safety Council, 10 Ways to Prevent Occupational Eye Injuries  
[http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org/assets/pdf/preventing\\_workplace\\_injuries\\_mk33.pdf](http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org/assets/pdf/preventing_workplace_injuries_mk33.pdf)
  - (2) OSHA Eye and Face Protection eTool  
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/eyeandface/index.html>
  - (3) Canadian Center for Occupational Safety and Health, Personal Protective Equipment FAQs  
[http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety\\_haz/welding/ppe.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/welding/ppe.html)
  - (4) The Fabricator, “Selecting the Best Lenses for Welders’ Eye Protection”  
[http://www.thefabricator.com/Safety/Safety\\_Article.cfm?ID=732#](http://www.thefabricator.com/Safety/Safety_Article.cfm?ID=732#)
- 4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.
- 5. Inquiries. Direct all inquiries to Marsha Fitzhugh at (202) 693-3099 or [fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov](mailto:fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov), Kelley Clark at (202) 693-3089 or [clark.kelley@dol.gov](mailto:clark.kelley@dol.gov), or Heather Edmonds at (202) 693-3774 or [edmonds.heather@dol.gov](mailto:edmonds.heather@dol.gov).