

## FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 4-2

### ISSUE:    EYE PROTECTION

Where a worker is exposed to the hazard of eye injury, eye protection appropriate in the circumstance should be worn. Helmet shields do not provide adequate eye protection during the normal course of activities undertaken in the fire service. When it is necessary to use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) the face piece of the (SCBA) will provide suitable eye protection under normal use.

The following are some examples of where eye protection is needed (if SCBA is not required):

- Auto extrication activities involving the use of cutting tools, hydraulic tools or breaking glass.
- Typical shop/maintenance activities like cutting, grinding etc.
- Fire-overhaul procedures.
- When chemical hazards are encountered.
- Where pressurized containers are involved.
- Where blood or other bodily fluids may be projected towards the eye.
- During specialized operations (water rescue, building collapse, high angle rescue), trench rescue, confined space rescue, or wild land fire fighting.
- During prolonged or acute exposure to sunlight (i.e. during water rescues or ladder operations).

Eye protection should be cleaned after each use, following the manufacturer's directions.