



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER DETACHMENT

LIMA, PERU  
UNIT NUMBER 3800  
APO AA 34041 - 3800

IN REPLY REFER TO

NMRCDINST 5100.11  
07 Feb 2003

NMRCD INSTRUCTION 5100.11

From: Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Naval Medical Research Center  
Detachment Lima, Peru

Subj: SIGHT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5100.23 Series.  
(b) American National Standards Institute (ANSI)  
Standard Z358.1-1998, Emergency Eyewash and Shower  
Equipment.  
(c) American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Z87.1-  
1989 (R-1998, American National Standard Practice  
for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face  
Protection (NOTAL)).  
(d) 29 CFR 1910.145.

1. Purpose. To establish a Command Sight Conservation Program in accordance with reference (a) for the protection of all NMRCD personnel exposed to eye-hazardous areas or operations.

2. Background. All Navy activities with personnel exposed to eye hazardous operations shall implement Sight Conservation Program per guidance established in references (a) and (b). The NMRCD Sight Conservation Program shall include, but not be limited to, the following program elements:

a. Identification and evaluation of eye hazardous areas, processes, and occupations.

b. Prescription Protection Eyewear Program

c. Provision and maintenance of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at government expense.

d. An employee training, promotion, and emphasis program.

e. Effective program enforcement.

3. Scope. This instruction covers all identified eye hazardous areas requiring eye protection. In addition to protection from common eye hazards such as flying objects resulting from certain cutting and drilling operations, this instruction covers operations associated with exposures to electromagnetic radiation such as: laser, ultraviolet, infrared and microwave radiation. This instruction is not limited to eye hazardous work operations

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but includes precautions for the visually impaired (any employee who is found to have vision in one eye which is 20/200 corrected or worse is considered visually impaired). Employees who have visual impairment will not be assigned duties which would present a hazard to his/her remaining eye. All persons in the vicinity of identified eye-hazard areas including supervisors, workers or visitor are subject to this instruction.

4. Policy. It is the policy of this Command to provide adequate eye protection and sight conservation training prior to employment of employees in eye hazardous areas. Visually impaired employees as defined in reference (a) are required to wear eye protection at all times regardless of their occupation or work station. Areas designated as eye-hazards shall be marked IAW reference (c). All personnel scheduled to work in eye-hazard areas, processes or operations shall be scheduled for sight screening examinations by the Occupational Health Officer and be enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program. Eye protection shall be provided by this Command. A comprehensive and periodic sight conservation training and education program shall be conducted on the need for and use of eye protection.

5. Action. The Officer-in-Charge, Command Safety Officer, Command Occupational Health and Biosafety Officer, Command Medical Officer and Department Heads/Supervisors shall:

a. Implement the policy in paragraph 4) of this instruction.

b. Ensure all personnel working in eye-hazard areas and operations and visually impaired personnel are enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program.

c. Ensure that all personnel enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program receive and are properly fitted with eye protection devices compatible to their work environment.

d. Ensure that visually impaired personnel are assigned to only non-hazardous work sites or operations as per reference (a).

e. Ensure that all personnel who can only wear contact lens corrective devices and perform work in eye-hazardous areas obtain and wear chemical resistant safety goggles at all times.

## 7 Basic Program Requirements

a. Emergency Eyewash Facilities. The command shall provide emergency eyewash facilities meeting the requirements of

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(2) Work centers shall activate plumbed eyewash unit - weekly for a minimum of 3 minutes to flush the line and verify operation.

(3) A representative from the Safety Office shall verify the operational readiness of these units at least quarterly.

b. Temporary Protective Eyewear. Temporary protective eyewear such as plano safety glasses or goggles shall be provided to visitors, instructors and others who must enter or pass through eye hazardous areas. In addition they shall be provided to employees awaiting delivery of corrective-protective eyewear.

## 8. Responsibility

a. The Command Safety Officer and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Officer shall determine eye hazardous areas, occupations and procedures that require the issuance and use of PPE or other safeguards. The Command Safety Office shall schedule annual industrial Hygiene surveys to evaluate hazardous areas, occupation and procedures. Hazard areas shall be identified and marked in accordance with reference (c).

b. Personnel requiring prescription safety glasses will have the prescription sent to the Fiscal and Procurement Office for purchase. The Command Occupational Health and Biosafety Officer will ensure initial training in the Sight Conservation Program.

c. The Fiscal and Procurement Office is responsible for the purchase of all prescription eye protective devices ordered by the Command Safety Officer.

d. The Command Safety Officer will include in the Command Training Program, topics related to the need for the use of protective eyewear for all supervisory and non-supervisory personnel. Education programs should not be limited to work areas but should include after-work activities as well.

e. Department supervisors shall ensure that personnel working in eye-hazardous areas, wear protective eyewear at all times, and that names of personnel enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program are provided to the Occupational Health and Biosafety Officer. They shall ensure that no individual will work in an eye-hazardous area without receiving proper eye screening, PPE and enrollment in the Sight Conservation Program.

f. All personnel enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program shall wear command-issued protective eyewear when engaged in the hazardous operations and shall maintain their PPE eyewear in good

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operating condition at all times. Personnel enrolled in the program shall submit themselves to an annual sight evaluation, or as frequently as deemed necessary by the visiting Industrial Hygiene Team, Occupational Health and Biosafety Officer or the Safety Officer.

g. Personnel who are either transferring into or out of an identified eye-hazardous area or related occupation shall be evaluated by the Occupational Health Officer prior to the assignment and disenrollment from the program. Personnel prior to their initial assignment into identified eye-hazardous areas shall be enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program and have baseline sight test performed prior to transfer.

7. Eye hazardous areas, assignments and operations include, but are not limited to:

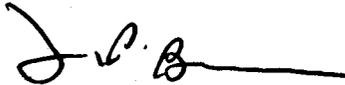
a. Flying objects resulting from metal grinding, use of hand tools, portable electric power tools or pneumatic tools for cleaning, riveting, chipping or scaling boilers and breaking concrete or bricks.

b. Areas where there is potential exposure to dust, fumes, gases or vapors such as the maintenance and repair shops, animal breeding areas, laboratories, welding operations, etc.

c. Areas where there is potential exposure to chemical splashes such laboratories, maintenance and repair shops, Veterinary Services - animal containment rooms and the animal cage washing area.

d. Exposure to ionizing radiation, ultraviolet or laser radiation.

e. Exposure to biological hazards as in Animal Resources Branch, Virology, Enteric Microbiology Labs, etc.

  
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