

## Food Service Worker has Eye Surgery after Bottle Shatters in her Face

**Industry:** Food Service Contractor

**Release Date:** December 31, 2011

**Task:** Loading Drink Cart

**Occupation:** Drink Cart Coordinator

A 22-year-old drink cart coordinator nearly lost her vision after a piece of glass ruptured her right eye. The worker was kneeling to load an airplane drink cart. A wine bottle resting on a box 4-5 feet off the floor fell, shattering, with pieces of glass becoming lodged in her eye. The worker was initially seen at an urgent care center but needed to go to the emergency room for surgery. Her injuries kept her off work for over a month. She only left home to go to her eye appointments. At the time of her injury, she was not wearing eye protection because it was not provided as part of her job. The victim reported that the company now provides and requires workers to wear eye protection while loading carts and working with chemicals.



### Employer Requirements

- The employer must look for and identify hazards or potential hazards in the workplace and determine if Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary on the job. See WAC 296-800-16005
- The employer must document that a hazard assessment for PPE has been done and complete a written certification. See WAC 296-800-16010
- The employer must provide PPE at no cost to employees if the PPE would not reasonably or normally be worn away from workplace. See WAC 296-800-16020.
- Employers must make sure your employees use appropriate eye and face protection. See WAC 296-800-16050

### Recommendations

- Ensure you have been trained to recognize and correct hazards associated with your job. If no one has discussed hazards with you, ask for training.
- Inspect your working area before completing a task and address any hazard before beginning task. In this case ensure that all loose wine bottles and/or other breakables are stored in a box and not resting on a shelf or an unstable surface.
- Design storage rooms to prevent loose bottles from being left on unstable surfaces. Provide railings that would not allow individual bottles to fall or design a container rack that stores individual bottles instead of using shelves to store boxes filled with bottles.
- When possible use drink options that are made from non-glass materials.

### Resources

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at:  
[www.SafetyConsultants.lni.wa.gov](http://www.SafetyConsultants.lni.wa.gov)
- Free hazard assessment checklist from L&I at:  
<http://1.usa.gov/A2150w>

### Need more information?

Please contact Eric Jalonen,  
Research Investigator at 360-902-  
6751 or email  
[Eric.Jalonen@Lni.wa.gov](mailto:Eric.Jalonen@Lni.wa.gov)