



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: September 22, 2004

SA-04-04

TO: All Center Personnel

FROM: 429/Head, Safety and Facility Assurance Office, OSSEMA

SUBJECT: Laser Eyewear

On July 22, 2004 an incident occurred in which a laser operator sustained a burn to the left retina during the testing of a laser system. The injury was due to exposure from diffuse laser light that entered the eye through a gap between the individuals face and the bottom of the laser protective eyewear the individual was wearing. Only one style of laser eyewear was available in the laboratory where the test was conducted and due to the individual's anatomy a larger than normal gap was present, contributing to the cause of the injury.

All laser workers are encouraged to review their laser eyewear and ensure they fit adequately. Facilities ordering new laser eyewear should ensure they review the laser workers in their area and purchase the appropriate sizes to accommodate all workers. In facilities where laser workers share protective eyewear, a style should be chosen that is adjustable and will provide a good fit for all workers. The LaRC Radiation Safety Officer is available to offer assistance in the purchasing of protective eyewear to ensure the appropriate type is obtained for your work environment.

Any questions should be directed to the Mr. Kim Merritt, LaRC Radiation Safety Officer at extension 43210.

  
Grant M. Watson  
43069

421/AHP 

**(This Safety Alert to be posted on Facility Bulletin Boards for a Minimum of 30 days.)**