EPA Preventing Eye Damage from UV Radiation



Information on the dangers to the eye from long exposure to UV radiation as well as preventive measures and a list of frequently asked questions.

Potential Effects of UV Radiation on Eyes

UV radiation, whether from natural sunlight or artificial UV rays, can damage the eye, affecting surface tissues and internal structures, such as the cornea and lens.

Long-term exposure to UV radiation can lead to cataracts, skin cancer around the eyelids, and other eye disorders.

In the short term, excessive exposure to UV radiation from daily activities, including reflections off of snow, pavement, and other surfaces, can burn the front surface of the eye, similar to a sunburn on the skin.

The cumulative effects of spending long hours in the sun without adequate…