

safety alert

Allergic Reaction

E14176

The Issue:

During the course of his work, a vegetation staff member repeatedly wiped sweat from his brow using his fire retardant overall sleeve.

Contaminants from his sleeve (sweat, dust, etc.) were inadvertently wiped into his eyes, causing an allergic reaction which resulted in his eyes becoming puffy and sore.

Findings:

Chemicals used to treat clothing to make them fire retardant can cause allergic reactions/skin irritations. When combined with dust, dirt, tree sap, sweat etc..., sensitive areas of the body, such as your eyes may react to these contaminants.

Root Cause:

Contaminants from sleeve were inadvertently rubbed into eyes.

Actions Required:

If you find that your eyes have reacted to an allergy seek medical advice from your Doctor.



Learnings:

- If you have the need to wipe sweat from your eyes, use a clean cloth.
- Do not wipe sweat from your brow with your overall sleeve.
- If you get a foreign body in your eye, rinse it out with an eye wash, or clean water
- Report the event to your supervisor and seek medical attention as appropriate

For further details, please contact Dave Whale, QSE Assessor 021 868 745.

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Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event