



2004 Eye Health and Safety Observances

Month	Monthly Awareness/Observance
January	<p><i>National Glaucoma Awareness Month</i>—January 1 - 31</p> <p>More than 2 million Americans age 40 and older suffer from glaucoma. Nearly half do not know they have the disease—it causes no early symptoms. Prevent Blindness America will provide insightful information about this “Sneak Thief of Sight.”</p>
February	<p><i>AMD/Low Vision Awareness Month</i>—February 1 - 28</p> <p>Macular degeneration is a leading cause of vision loss, affecting 1.6 million Americans age 50 and older. Low vision aids can make the most of remaining vision. Information on eye disease warning signs and treatment will be available.</p>
March	<p><i>Workplace Eye Health and Safety Month</i>—March 1 - 31</p> <p>Can you see the dangers in your workplace? Accidents at work are a major cause of preventable blindness. Contact Prevent Blindness America for information on The Wise Owl® Program which promotes eye safety in the workplace.</p>
April	<p><i>Women’s Eye Health and Safety Month</i>—April 1 - 30</p> <p>Women often manage family health concerns. Do you know how to protect your sight? Hormonal changes, age and smoking can endanger sight. Information on women’s and family eye-health issues will be provided.</p>
May	<p><i>National Sight-Saving Month: Ultraviolet Awareness Month</i>—May 1 - 31</p> <p>Exposure to UV rays can burn delicate eye tissue and raise the risk of developing cataracts and cancers of the eye. Protecting your eyes from UV dangers and choosing the right sunglasses will be the topic of the month.</p>
June	<p><i>Vision Research Month</i>—June 1 - 30</p> <p>While millions of Americans benefit from vision research, many eye diseases have no effective treatments or cures. An overview of vision research successes and the urgent need for future studies will be covered.</p>

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June - July	<p><i>Fireworks Safety Month</i>—June - July</p> <p>Activities during this period will alert parents and children to the dangers of playing with fireworks. Prevent Blindness America will offer safer ways to celebrate the Fourth of July.</p> <p><i>Light the Night for Sight</i>—May - July</p> <p>Celebrate sight and safety with Prevent Blindness. <i>Light the Night for Sight</i> is a national walkathon organized to raise awareness of eye health and safety issues and to celebrate the gift of sight. Safe celebrations will be promoted.</p>
August	<p><i>Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month</i>—August 1 - 31</p> <p>Included in this month will be information about amblyopia, a condition that can affect 2 to 3% of children and cause permanent vision loss. Also included will be tips about preventing eye injuries in children, signs of possible eye problems and general eye health.</p>
August	<p><i>Cataract Awareness Month</i>—August 1 - 31</p> <p>Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the world. There are close to 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older with cataract. By age 80, more than half of all Americans will have cataract. Prevent Blindness America will offer tips about prevention and information about surgery.</p>
September	<p><i>Sports and Home Eye Safety Month</i>—September 1 - 30</p> <p>There are thousands of eye injuries a year related to sports and hazards around the house. Tips on how to protect yourself and your children from such eye injuries will be discussed.</p>
October	<p><i>Halloween Safety Month</i>—October 1 - 31</p> <p>There are steps you can take to make it a safe Halloween for children and teens. Information about the dangers of cosmetic contact lenses will be included, as the use of these lenses increases at this time of the year.</p>
November	<p><i>Diabetic Eye Disease Month</i>—November 1 - 30</p> <p>Can people with diabetes prevent the onset of diabetic eye disease? During this observance, Prevent Blindness America will offer information to help the 5.3 million Americans age 18 and older who suffer from diabetic eye disease.</p>
December	<p><i>Safe Toys and Gifts Month</i>—December 1 - 31</p> <p>What are the most dangerous toys to children’s eyesight? Tips on how to choose age-appropriate and safe toys will be distributed.</p>