# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information:

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**Prevent Blindness Tristate Announces Kick-off of its Workplace Eye Safety Awards program during National Workplace Eye Safety Month.**

**New Haven, CT (March 7, 2012)** – The workplace can be a dangerous place for the eyes. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.t05.htm), there were 25,230 reported eye injuries in one year alone that required time away from work

In honor of National Workplace Eye Safety Month, Prevent Blindness Tri-State has kicked-off its annual eye safety awards program called” Eyes on America’s Workplace Eye Safety Award”. Through this program, Prevent Blindness Tristate (PBTS) invites companies to apply for a eye safety award and gives employers an opportunity to be recognized for their excellent workplace eye safety records. Applications for this award can be found on the PBTS web site: [www.preventblindnesstristate.org](http://www.preventblindnesstristate.org) or go to facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prevent-Blindness-Tri-State.

The application deadline for the Awards program is June 1.”

Although the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to provide workers with suitable eye protection, sight-threatening accidents still occur. *Fortunately, 90 percent of all eye injuries can be prevented through the proper eye protection.*

Prevention is one of the best ways to keep healthcare expenses down. For employers, attention to their employees’ eye safety and wellness can mean increased productivity and low workmen’s compensation costs. The cost of eye injuries in the workplace is over $300 million annually

Prevent Blindness Tristate offers employers a variety of resources to help protect workers’ vision, and eye health. It provides onsite eye safety and wellness training, and vision screenings to help employers protect their biggest assets– their employees.

Through a partnership between its parent organization Prevent Blindness America, and Uvex, Prevent Blindness Tristate, has added a new intiative,[**Eye2Eye**](http://www.eye2eyeprogram.com) to its portfolio of workplace eye safety and wellness programs. The unique program features a peer-based, interactive curriculum and community-oriented forum enabling end-users to share their best practices with each other.

Upon completion of the multimedia training program, employee representatives become certified Eye2Eye Safety Ambassadors, a vital role designed to bridge the gap between safety managers and employees. Safety Ambassadors gain access to the program’s online training modules and also receive product samples and promotional prizes provided by Uvex. A one-year, $250 membership for Eye2Eye includes online access for up to five employees. More information may be found at eye2eyeprogram.com.

Prevent Blindness Tristate also offers lunch-and-learn presentations in an office setting, including eye health topics such as various eye safety topics, computer safety, adult eye disorders, eye anatomy, healthy living, and low vision.

“It doesn’t matter what line of work you’re in, eye health and safety should be a top priority for everyone,” said Kathryn Garre-Ayars, President/CEO of Prevent Blindness Tristate. “We’ve worked with industry experts to put together the most comprehensive programs to help save sight in the workplace, and we encourage everyone to participate in protecting their eyes today!”

To find out how your company can apply for the Eye Awards program, or to receive free information on eye safety in the workplace, please contact Prevent Blindness Tristate at **1-800-850-2020x26** or visit the PBTS website: [www.preventblindnesstristate.org](http://www.preventblindnesstristate.org) and find it on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prevent-Blindness-Tri-State> and twitter.

**About Prevent Blindness Tristate**

Having its origins in New York City in 1908, Prevent Blindness Tristate is an independent affiliate of the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization whose mission it is to prevent blindness and saving sight. It operates in the region in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, it touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research.  These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public.  For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-850-2020x26, visit the website or facebook page or twitter.

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