

## Salons Describe Tanning

# “ACCIDENTS!”

**W**e recently asked salon operators to share their stories of “tanning accidents” so that others could learn from experience. The best entry won a Solarmeter light meter from Solarmeter, Inc., and the 2nd -10th place entries each received disposable eye protection from Eye Pro, Inc. (\$50 salon cost).

## Could these accidents happen in **YOUR** salon?

One of the winning “acciden-tales” came from Lana Gould, who owns Hot Stuff Tanning in Auburn, ME. Lana’s story:

“A close friend of our family who also tanned at our salon thought that all our talk of proper eye protection was simply a sales technique. This client was recently diagnosed with Molluscum Contagiosum – now everyone knows that she didn’t keep her eye protection clean! And, she now has to live with a visible growth on her eyelid. It’s too bad she didn’t follow salon policies and protect herself. Now she tells everyone to wear disposable eye protection and avoid getting a nasty infection around their eyes!”

At Evening Sun Tan, Debbie Jachim-Scamihorn thought she was doing everything she could to ensure her tanners’ safety. Her entry surprised even ME! Would you have caught the problem that happened in this Hobart, IN salon before the tanner damaged her eyes? Debbie explains:

“A new tanner came to our salon and as always, I explained all the necessary information to turn her into an educated tanner. She purchased all the needed supplies, including a pair of disposable eye protection. All was good, or so I thought. She came back five more times, buying new disposable eye protection each time. When she left after her last tan, I asked about her tanning experience and if she wanted to buy more tans. She said everything was great, but her eyes were burning and very uncomfortable with a funny, scratchy feeling.



Tanning industry veteran Brenda Fishbaugh is president of Eye Pro, Inc., makers of disposable eyewear. She travels extensively training salons on the effects of UV light on vision.

She said that it was happening all the times she tanned, but never thought to tell me. I knew she must be experiencing photokeratitis, which is a corneal burn. I immediately asked whether she was wearing the eye protection that she had purchased for each tanning session. She told me that she thought the eye protection would mess up her makeup, so she had just worn them on her nipples to protect them!”

Dolly Mcshane owns Hollywood Tans in Philadelphia, PA and relates the following story.

“My equipment maintenance person, who changes and tests my tanning booths, thought he could do his job without wearing UV blocking maintenance glasses! He would regularly test the booth for 1-2 minutes without wearing appropriate eye protection. Needless to say, he ended up in the emergency room! Now he ALWAYS wears his UV Blockers!”

I’m very grateful to Lana, Debbie and Dolly for sharing their unpleasant salon experiences with other salon pros. If you have a story you’d like to share, email [Brenda@eyepro.net](mailto:Brenda@eyepro.net). ■



Debbie Jachim-Scamihorn



Lana Gould