City and County of San Francisco

Department of Public Health



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SERIOUS EYE INJURIES ARE NOT "FUN"

City Seeks to Minimize Emergency Room Visits From Pillow Fight

San Francisco, **CA**—Eye injuries are no laughing matter, and serious wounds can be suffered when the eye is struck by any object, even one as soft as a pillow, said SFDPH's Director of Health Mitchell H. Katz, MD.

Hospital records show that no fewer than 27 individuals with a range of injuries were admitted to the emergency room after last year's pillow fight in Justin Hermann Plaza.

"Folks should be aware of the danger of corneal abrasion, penetrating injuries, and even orbital blowout fractures," according to Katz.

While feathers are soft and pillows as a whole don't tend to injure, a quick scrape of the edge of some fabric can cause serious harm, said Katz. Not to mention the occasional wild swing that results in the collision of a person's clenched fist with a sensitive region like the eye.

Below is a photo of an eye injury that was suffered as a result of last year's pillow fight.



Katz offered one final word of advice: if you or anyone you know attends the pillow fight and obtains an eye injury, immediately seek medical attention to avoid possible infection.