



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE

Visual Injuries

Acute Treatment - Publications and Presentations on Blast-Related Visual Injuries

VCE ophthalmologists, in collaboration with other civilian, military, and academic ophthalmologists, co-authored a paper, "Ocular Blast Injuries in Mass-Casualty Incidents: The Marathon Bombing in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Fertilizer Plant Explosion in West, Texas," published in *Ophthalmology*. Lessons learned from studying these two incidents included: the importance of staying away from windows during disasters; the benefit of rigid eye shields by first responders; the significance of reliable communications during disasters; deepening the ophthalmology call algorithm; the impact of visual incapacitation from loss of spectacles; the need to improve early detection of ocular injuries in emergency departments; and the importance of integrating ophthalmology services into trauma teams as well as maintaining a voice in hospital-wide and community-based disaster planning. VCE continues to provide expert guidance for the screening, assessment, referral, management and rehabilitation of eye and visual dysfunctions associated with blast exposure, concussion, and TBI and inform eye care providers in DoD and VA on best practices and cogent clinical decisions.