

## Eye Safety Systems

by **Rob Earick, PCI #363**

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ESS (Eye Safety System, Inc) offers quality sunglasses that provide ESSential eye protection from impact as well as 100% UVA/ UVB protection.

I tested a pair of the ESS Recon sunglasses during bike patrol and training, firearms training and while driving a patrol car. I also used the glasses while driving on a three day road trip.

As soon as I tried on the glasses, I was impressed with the way they fit. I have a slim face, but the glasses fit very well and do not feel bulky. The lenses are clear and distortion-free and have not yet scratched, even though I have been wearing them for several months. According to ESS, the lenses are protected by the “ESS ToughZone” anti-scratch coatings. They also claim that the polycarbonate lenses will stop a shotgun blast from 35 feet, making the glasses ideal for range and/ or high impact assignments. I didn’t personally test this feature!

The glasses are very comfortable. I never experienced any amount of eye fatigue, even after wearing them all day. The arms on the glasses have a rubber insert that keep them in place. However, I noticed that the plastic arms began to poke through the rubber inserts, leaving holes in the end. Because I have only tested the glasses for a short period of time, it is unknown how long the rubber portion will last.

While driving and on bike patrol, I prefer sunglasses with polarized lenses. Unfortunately, the Recon model that I tested did not have polarized lenses. Polarized lenses would add another safety feature by eliminating glare while allowing the user to see more easily through windows.

Overall, I am impressed with the clarity and comfort of the glasses, especially since they are marketed as safety glasses. ESS offers other models to choose from including the Fusion, which does have polarized lenses.

The Recon model, which comes with a protective carrier and lens cloth, retails for \$79.99 in Galls, but ESS participates in the IPMBA Product Purchase Program, offering 20-30% off list prices, so lower prices may be available. To obtain more information about ESS eyewear, go to their website at [essgoggles.com](http://essgoggles.com) or contact Willy Breen at [wbreen@essgoggles.com](mailto:wbreen@essgoggles.com) or 208-721-4072.

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