

The "C-Change" Initiative:

1. Change behaviors.
2. Challenge ourselves to re-think how we work.
3. Certify the results on a daily basis.



Tool Box Talk ***1/25/2010***

Protecting Our Hands: Comparing and Selecting Gloves

The combination of running machinery and hands equals a risk for hand injury, period. Gloves or other personal protective equipment cannot eliminate that hazard completely. These items should be the last defense against hazards after all safety measures have been taken.

Gloves often are relied upon to prevent cuts, abrasions, burns, and skin contact with chemicals that are capable of causing local or systematic effects following dermal exposure.

Gloves protect the hands from different types of hazards, including chemicals, biological contaminants, and general abuse from handling materials. They can be categorized by type: general purpose, abrasion protection and grip, cut-resistant, puncture-resistant, cold and heat protection, and chemical-resistant.

Cloth or canvas gloves are most effective in protecting hands against dirt, rough surfaces, wood splinters, and some temperature ranges. Leather gloves will protect hands against sparks, chips, ragged and jagged edges, and moderate heat.

Electrical rubber gloves are designed for electrical work. Metal mesh gloves are designed for working with tools having sharp blades, sheet metal, or any other surface that can cut. They are not to be used for electrical work.

Aluminized gloves will protect against flames and extremely high temperatures.

Impervious gloves—neoprene, latex, vinyl, and PVC—are designed for handling chemicals and hazardous substances that may damage the skin. Since there are so many different types of impervious gloves it is important to make sure that the one you choose will protect against the substances with which you are working.

Gloves made from **Dupont's Kevlar® brand fiber** are strong and lightweight. They are great protection against cuts without diminishing manual dexterity or flexibility.

It is important to know the performance characteristics of gloves relative to the specific hazards anticipated—chemical hazards, cut hazards, flame hazards, and others.

Following these guidelines should help reduce hand injuries:

- Assessing Hazards
- Minimizing Hazards
- Modifying Contributing Factors
- Training Employees
- Protecting Hands
- Compare and Selecting Gloves