

**Toolbox Talks – Hand Injury Protection**

**Hand injuries facts**

* 20.2% of all WCB claims between 2013 and 2017 are due to hand injuries in the workplace.
* 42.7% of hand injury claims were from cuts and lacerations

***This type of injury is commonly caused by:***
•Dull cutting tools •Jagged edges •Sharp metals •Pointed objects •Glass •Nails

***Typical hazards and possible causes of cuts and lacerations in the workplace can include:***

* Improper or lack of training
* Lack of established safety procedures
* Employees rushing or taking shortcuts
* Failure to select and wear proper hand protection for the specific task
* Missing or improperly adjusted guarding equipment

**Tips for prevention**

* Keep tools properly maintained and in good working condition.
* Keep hands and fingers away from sharp edges of cutting tools.
* Pass tools to other workers handle first.
* Store tools properly and safely when not in use. Always replace covers on sharp tools and store so you grasp handle first. This also helps to maintain tools.
* Make sure all tools and cutting devices have proper grips and handles.
* Use suction cups or magnetic pads to carry large sheets of glass or metal.
* Never use a screwdriver on work being done in your hands.
* Always do work on a flat, stable surface.
* Always wear proper hand protection for the job, selecting the correct glove for the task being performed.
* Flatten or remove any nails that may cause puncture wounds.
* Practice good housekeeping – keep a clean work area.
* Only use tools for the job they were made to do. (i.e. Don’t use a file or screwdriver as a lever.)
* Always cut in a direction away from your body.

***Many hazard controls will include selecting and wearing proper protective gloves***

**Hand Protection**

***Here are some questions to ask when selecting the proper gloves:***

* Are cuts and lacerations from sharp objects a problem?
* Is a secure grip vital to the application?
* Is dexterity important?
* Are the gloves properly sized for individual workers?

To select the proper glove, perform a hazard and risk assessment of the task. Then choose a glove that provides the proper protection against the hazards associated with the task being completed.