



GLOVE & HAND PROTECTION

TOOLBOX TALK: Glove & Hand Protection

RATTLIR Safety Series – “Strike Before It Bites”

Purpose

Hand injuries make up one of the highest categories of workplace injuries, yet most are preventable with proper glove selection and safe work practices. This toolbox talk covers glove types, hazard assessment, inspection, and safe use to protect workers in all RATTLIR operations.

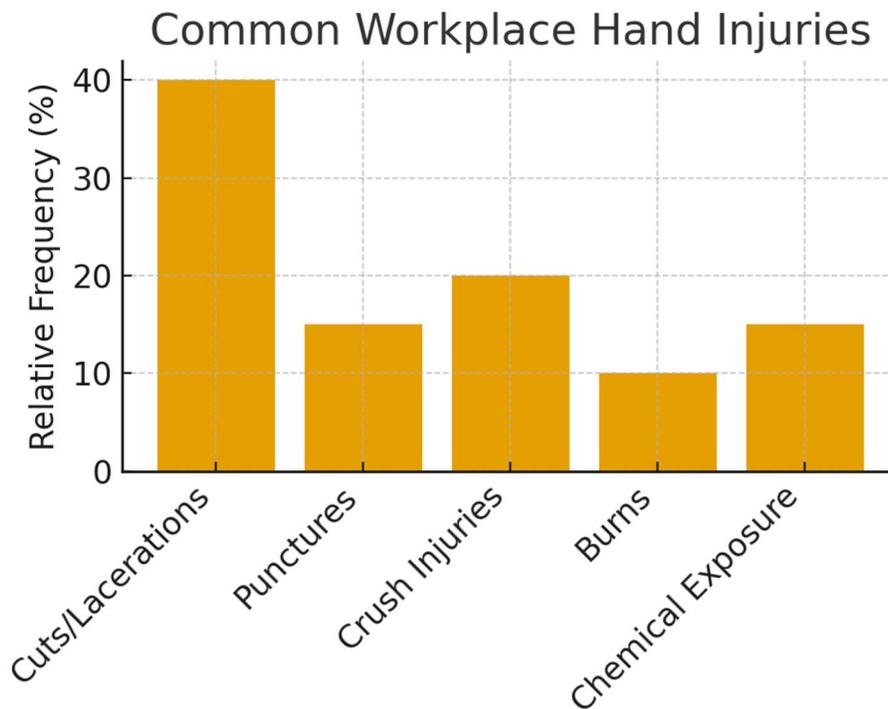


Figure 1 – Common workplace hand injury categories and their relative frequency.

ANSI Glove Performance Ratings

The ANSI/ISEA 105 standard rates gloves for their protective performance:

- Cut Resistance (A1–A9): Higher rating = greater cut protection.
- Puncture Resistance (1–5): Ability to prevent penetration from sharp objects.



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- Abrasion Resistance (1–6): Durability against rough surfaces.
- Chemical Resistance: Varies by glove material (nitrile, neoprene, PVC, butyl, etc.).
- Impact Protection: Gloves with back-of-hand reinforcement for heavy tools or pinch hazards.

Gloves must be selected based on the specific task and hazard, not convenience.

Common Hand Hazards

- Sharp tools, sheet metal, wire, or burrs.
- Pinch points between equipment, hinges, racks, or heavy objects.
- Hot surfaces, steam, or chemical exposure.
- Rotating equipment where gloves may get caught.
- Cold temperatures increasing stiffness and reducing dexterity.
- Handling rough materials that cause abrasions or blisters.

Prevention Strategies

- Wear gloves appropriate for the hazard—cut-resistant, chemical-resistant, insulated, or impact-rated.
- Inspect gloves for holes, tears, cracking, or contamination before each use.
- Remove gloves when operating drill presses, grinders, or rotating machinery.
- Keep hands away from pinch points and moving components.
- Replace damaged gloves immediately—do not tape or repair them.
- Keep gloves clean and dry to maintain grip and reduce slipping hazards.

Emergency Response

- For cuts/lacerations: Apply pressure, clean the wound, and seek medical evaluation.
- For punctures: Do not remove embedded objects; stabilize and seek medical care.
- For chemical exposures: Rinse for at least 15 minutes and remove contaminated gloves.
- For crush injuries: Immobilize and seek immediate medical care.
- Report all hand injuries to ensure follow-up and corrective action.

Discussion Questions

- Are the gloves we are using today appropriate for the tasks and hazards?
- Do we need cut-resistant, chemical-resistant, or impact-rated gloves for specific tasks?
- Are any gloves worn out, damaged, or in need of replacement?



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RATTLIR Takeaway

Hands are the most commonly injured body part in industrial work. Choosing the right gloves, inspecting them, and using them correctly allows us to strike before it bites and prevent disabling injuries.