

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

Company Name: _____

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Safety Success Story

As Ironworkers were setting a beam in place, the beam shifted unexpectedly pinching one workers hand between the edge of the beam and a column. The result was a minor cut and no broken bones, due in large part to his high impact Kevlar gloves. All though that type of incident should not happen in the first place, it could have been much worse without the use of the added hand protection.

These types of gloves are very good for rigging and demolition work.



High Impact Gloves

HAND AND FINGER INJURIES

Over 16 million people suffer from hand injuries each year. 1 million workers visit the ER each year because of serious hand injuries resulting in 110,000 Lost Time Injuries. 25% of all industrial injuries involve the hand. Each year, more than 15,000 workers end up in the emergency room because of hand-tool-related injuries alone. These injuries vary from minor cuts and burns to the most severe which involve surgery and even amputation.

How do we prevent Hand & Finger Injuries?

Material Handling- When passing material, workers must communicate with each other, and be sure that everyone knows where their hands are at all times. Be sure to identify sharp edges or hot material, and protect yourself when handling it.

Hand & Power Tools- Be sure that the tool is working properly and not damaged in any way (for example; a hammer which has a cracked or loose handle should not be used). Always use the tool correctly, according to what it is designed for (example- don't use a screw driver for a pry bar). Do not use cheater bars or pipes unless they are designed for such. They result in many hand injuries due to slipping or breaking. For the same reason, nuts and bolts that are rounded off or seized should be removed by alternative means as opposed to just using the normal tool. Never hold an object in one hand while working on it with a tool in the other hand (for example; a grinder or screw driver), that is just asking for it.

Pinch Points and Caught In- Pinch points, getting caught in machinery or moving parts, are some of the worst injuries. You must be aware of hand placement at all times, especially when multiple workers together are moving objects or loads (verification communication is critical). Always use tag lines on moving loads.

PPE, the Last Line of Defense- Even though that is true, many injuries are prevented and lessened simply by wearing the gloves. Be sure you have the correct gloves for the task you are performing; hot work (welding, burning, etc.) requires welding or similar gloves to prevent burns, when cutting or handling sharp objects wear Kevlar gloves, and if working with chemicals wear chemical resistant gloves (always refer to the SDS for product precautions). Wear good, leather work gloves for normal construction work (Kevlar lined recommended). High visibility gloves promote awareness.

