

SAFETY MATTERS



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Cuts & Lacerations

Common Cut/Laceration Injuries Include:

- Scratches and abrasions
- Minor cuts requiring first aid
- Needlesticks and puncture wounds
- Deep lacerations requiring medical attention and sutures
- Lacerations involving nerve and/or tendon damage
- Amputations

Typical Hazards/Causes of Cuts and Lacerations Include:

- Improper training
- Lack of established safety procedures
- Employees in a hurry, taking short cuts or not following safety procedures
- Failure to wear cut-resistant gloves or wearing improper gloves for the job
- Contact with metal items such as nails, sharp edges or burrs
- Hand tools with blades (e.g., knives, box cutters, screwdrivers, chisels)
- Powered machinery with cutting blades, pinch points, and rotating parts
- Handling sharp objects or material such as glass or sheet metal
- Improper tool for the job and/or tool used improperly (e.g., using a screwdriver as a pry bar)
- Tools in poor condition (e.g., cracked or broken handle, dull blade, mushroomed chisel head or slippery from exposure to oil-based chemicals)
- Missing or improperly adjusted guarding
- Poor housekeeping, clutter or debris

Steps to Prevent Cuts and Lacerations:

- Keep hand tools (knives, box cutters and scissors) sharp and in good condition
- Inspect machinery on a regular basis to ensure that point of operation guards are in place
- Remove damaged tools and equipment from service
- Use the appropriate equipment / tool for the job
- Use knives with a comfortable handle and a secure grip
- Use an angled-handle blade designed to reduce awkward body positions
- Secure the item you are cutting (don't hold work in your hand)
- Keep your non-cutting hand out of the path of the cut
- Always carry knives by the handle with the point down
- Clean and store knives immediately after each use and never leave hidden in the dishwasher
- Properly store knives in the designated storage rack or in protective sheaths
- Always wear personal protective equipment including cut resistant gloves
- Maintain gloves so that they are in good condition and replace when damaged

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DID YOU KNOW

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), cuts, lacerations and punctures are the third leading cause of lost time/days away from work in the United States.

Approximately 30% of all workplace injuries involve cuts or lacerations, and about 70% of those injuries are to the hands or fingers.

Important Points:

Steps to prevent cuts and lacerations include: removing damaged tools and equipment from service; using proper tool and equipment for the job; and storing tools with blades in designated storage rack or protective sheath.

Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including cut-resistant gloves.

For more safety resources, visit www.NFIB.com/safetymatters

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