

Weekly Safety Tip

HAND SAFETY QUIZ

Use a marker to “cut off” the finger you are willing to do without...



Q: On your dominant hand, which finger would you be most willing to do without?

Your hands are your most important tools and are more versatile than anything else in your toolbox. They are also the most fragile, and as such, are irreplaceable. Typical injuries to hands include bruises, cuts, puncture wounds, burns, insect bites, and broken or severed fingers. Crushing or caught-in injuries can be caused by failure to maintain machine guards or following the appropriate lock out tag out (LOTO) procedures.

Facts to consider: Over 16 million people suffer hand injuries each year and over a quarter million of those injuries are serious, often disabling. Men are nine (9) times more likely to suffer hand injuries than women. Simply using a hammer causes 30,000 hand injuries each year. Another 25,000 people are injured each year using a screwdriver or crescent wrench.

Safe guidelines: Always have a “Safe Plan of Action” to eliminate the hazards for the task. Inspect equipment and machinery before beginning the task and be sure you are using the right tool for the job. Power off and LOTO (Lock Out, Tag Out)! Don’t wear gloves, jewelry, or loose clothing when working around moving machine parts.

Gloves: Not all gloves are the same. It is estimated that 70% of hand injuries can be prevented by wearing the right gloves for the task.