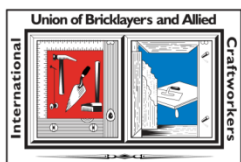


Masonry r2p Partnership



SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

Importance of Proper Glove Selection and Use

Situation

- Each year, there are thousands of work-related hand injuries. In 2010, for example, roughly 1 out of every 5 construction workers experienced a hand/wrist or finger injury that resulted in days away from work.* Such injuries are also a leading reason why workers end up in the emergency room.**
- The annual cost of hand injuries to the construction industry is estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.*** OSHA estimates that one dermatitis claim, for example, can cost more than \$20,000: \$9,294 in direct costs (which includes the cost of medical care and wages lost due to the injury, whether paid for by the employer, a health and welfare fund, or the workers' compensation carrier), and \$11,152 in indirect costs (which includes, for example, supervisory time spent on investigation and reports, and loss of worker productivity).
- OSHA requires employers to provide gloves and workers to use them when *"a workplace hazard assessment reveals that employees face potential injury to hands and arms that cannot be eliminated through engineering and work practice controls..."*

Interventions

- 1. Provide the right gloves.** OSHA recommends that "gloves be selected based on the task that will be performed, the chemicals encountered, and the performance and construction characteristics of the glove material." Selecting the right gloves can be challenging. The Choose Hand Safety website developed by the Masonry r2p Partnership in coordination with CPWR-The Center for Construction Research and Training can help. The section, "Choosing Gloves" (<http://www.choosehandsafety.org/choosing-gloves>) contains information to help contractors and workers find appropriate gloves for the tasks and products they will be using on the jobsite.
- 2. Train Your Employees.** Everyone who performs tasks with products or materials that contain potentially hazardous chemicals, including project managers, foremen, superintendents, and workers should receive training before being assigned work. Training should address:
 - The product/material and the task for which it will be used;
 - The potential health and safety risk associated with the product/material, and safety measures required if there is the potential for skin or other exposure;
 - Information on gloves, such as:
 - How to use the gloves – including how to put them on (don) and take them off (doff) to avoid skin contact with the product/material
 - The hazard(s) the gloves will protect against (explaining that not all gloves will protect against all hazards – so no glove substitutions)
 - The importance of wearing gloves that fit
 - How to inspect the gloves for damage to determine if they are still protective or need to be replaced.
 - How frequently to replace gloves, and
 - Where to find or who to go to for gloves on the job site.
- 3. Track Progress.** Improving hand safety is not a onetime activity. It requires an on-going employer commitment and continuous monitoring to ensure the training and preventive measures are understood and making a

difference. There are several ways to track progress including:

- On-site monitoring – are workers wearing gloves, using guards on equipment, and aware of preventive measures to avoid hand injuries?
- Follow-up training -- to reinforce hand safety, find gaps in awareness and knowledge, and keep workers, supervisors and other employees up-to-date on the latest ways to prevent hand injuries.
- Injury data – are there fewer hand injuries?

*The Construction Chart Book; CPWR; Fifth Edition; Chart 48(a)

** PPE Basics – Hand Protection; NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center

*** A case-crossover study of transient risk factors for occupational acute hand injury; G S Sorock, D A Lombardi, R Hauser, E A Eisen, R F Herrick, M A Mittleman; Occup Environ Med 2004;61:305–311. doi: 10.1136/oem.2002.004028

Learn More

www.ChooseHandSafety.org contains:

- Information on Regulations
- How to find and check labels and Safety Data Sheets to find the recommended glove type
- Sources of information for gloves to use when performing certain tasks and working with different chemicals and products
- Examples of gloves for commonly used products in the masonry industry
- Safety and health information, including how to identify and prevent hand injuries and skin disorders
- Training materials including an Employer Guide, to prevent hand injuries and disorders, toolbox talks, presentations, a video and handouts.