



Weekly Safety Tip

"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"
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We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.

And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.



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We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.

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Safety Slogan

**Safety is the engine,
and you are the key that
starts it.**

**James Lehrke-SCI
of the week**

SCI Safety Tip: Select the Right Gloves to Prevent Employee Hand Injuries

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

By Paul Lawton

Date: Wednesday July 16, 2014

OSHA says 70 percent of workers sustaining hand injuries were not wearing gloves, and that the other 30 percent were wearing improper or damaged gloves.

These estimates underscore the need for proper glove selection and care. Some general glove use and care instructions for your next safety meeting on hand protection include:

- Make sure the gloves fit your hand properly. Gloves that are too small will limit your hand's mobility and could tear. Gloves that are too big will limit your dexterity.
- Hands should be clean before using gloves. If you put dirty or greasy hands inside your gloves, you are subjecting your hands to potential irritation because dirt and chemicals are being rubbed into your skin inside the glove.
- Fabric and leather gloves should be cleaned regularly or discarded.
- Before wearing, inspect gloves for damage. Replace gloves if they have tears, holes, or other minor defects.
- Make sure gloves are the right length for the job.
- Do not use fabric or leather gloves on liquid chemicals because the material will soak up the chemical.
- To safely remove contaminated gloves:
 - (1) Grasp the outside of the glove (near the cuff) on one hand with the other gloved hand and pull the glove off.
 - (2) Insert fingers from the hand without a glove under the cuff of the glove on the gloved hand.
 - (3) Grasp the inside (clean) surface of the glove and pull it off.

Glove Selection Selecting the right glove depends on the nature of the job. For example:

- Chemical-resistant gloves can be made of rubber, latex, Viton®, butyl, nitrile, neoprene, or PVC, and are graded by the manufacturer for degradation, breakthrough time, and permeation rate. The type of chemical-resistant gloves chosen will be specific to the chemical being used.
- Gloves made of Kevlar® and metal mesh are resistant to cuts and punctures. These kinds of gloves should be worn when handling saws, knives, or glass.
- Leather or canvas work gloves are commonly used to protect against cuts and scrapes. These can be coated with other materials to improve grip.
- Extreme temperatures of hot or cold require special gloves. Gloves made of terrycloth, leather, or pigskin help protect against burns. Gloves with liners are helpful when working in cold conditions.
- Electricians need lineman's gloves designed to protect against different levels of voltage. High-voltage gloves are black rubber with red interior so that any cuts or damage to the outside layer can easily be seen. Liners are worn under these gloves to help absorb perspiration.

SCI News: Public Sector Workers: A Patchwork of Protections

Source:<http://www.blr.com>

By Emily Clark (safety editor)

Date: July 23, 2014

Last week, we gave an overview of the differences between the states under federal OSHA jurisdiction and those that have chosen to operate their own occupational safety and health agencies, also known as state plan states. In addition to the differences in agency structure and regulations we discussed, there's another crucial distinction between federal OSHA and state-plan states: while state-plan states are required to include public sector workers in their protections, federal OSHA can only enforce its standards in the private sector.

So what does this mean for the state and local government workers and employers in the 25 states where federal OSHA has jurisdiction? The answer varies. A few of these states have chosen to implement health and safety laws as strict as, or stricter than, OSHA regulations. Some states regulate only a few select areas of workplace safety, such as hazard communication. And in a handful of states, there are no specific workplace safety regulations covering the public sector.

Public sector employees are subject to a variety of hazards, and state and local government workers (who can include social workers, public school teachers, maintenance staff, and many other occupations) in particular experience work-related injury and illness rates nearly twice those of their private-sector counterparts, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Comprehensive protections: Seven states

Seven states—Maine, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—have adopted comprehensive workplace safety laws for the public sector. These standards are at least as strict as federal OSHA regulations, and in some cases are stricter. Except for Montana, which punishes noncompliance with contempt of court or misdemeanor charges, all of these states impose fines on public sector employers that violate workplace safety standards.

Select laws: Six states

In Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, regulations exist, but they are not as comprehensive as the full set of OSHA rules. For example, in Arkansas, public sector employers are subject to hazard communication requirements stricter than those of federal OSHA, but the state does not have a full set of workplace safety regulations. Regulated topics include machine guarding and machine safety, woodworking plants, laundry machinery and operations, sanitation, construction and demolition, electrical transmission and distribution, and blasting.

HazCom only: Two states

In Georgia and Texas, hazard communication is the only workplace safety regulation that applies to the public sector. Georgia's hazard communication law is identical to that of federal OSHA, with some requirements that are stricter than federal requirements. The Texas rules also include some provisions stricter than OSHA's hazard communication standard regarding labeling, reporting, training records, and workplace chemical lists.

No laws: Ten states

The remaining ten federal OSHA states—Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota—do not regulate workplace safety for the public sector.

In most cases, public sector employers in these states are still required to carry workers' compensation coverage, which often includes safety requirements of its own. However, there are some notable exceptions. In Delaware, employees of the state or its subdivisions are not required to be covered by workers' compensation, and in Alabama, municipalities with populations fewer than 2,000 are not required to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees.

Safety plans and safety committees: A different approach

As an alternative to specifically regulating safety in public sector workplaces, some states have instead chosen to require or encourage these employers to develop [written safety plans](#), accident prevention programs, loss control program, or similar documents. (Louisiana and Nebraska are two such states.) Thus, even if you're located in a state without explicit standards for public sector workplace safety, you may still be required to address these issues through the development of a safety plan.

In some cases, these plans are required for all employers; some states require them only for high-hazard workplaces; and some states do not require them, but provide incentives in the form of discounted workers' compensation insurance premiums. Similar logic applies to safety committees: some states require them, and a few offer incentives.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA

Shingles

Shingles is a disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus - the same virus that causes [chickenpox](#). After you have chickenpox, the virus stays in your body. It may not cause problems for many years. As you get older, the virus may reappear as shingles. Unlike chickenpox, you can't catch shingles from someone who has it.

Early signs of shingles include burning or shooting pain and tingling or itching, usually on one side of the body or face. The pain can be mild to severe. Blisters then form and last from one to 14 days. If shingles appears on your face, it may affect your vision or hearing. The pain of shingles may last for weeks, months or even years after the blisters have healed.

There is no cure for shingles. Early treatment with medicines that fight the virus may help. These medicines may also help prevent lingering pain. A vaccine may prevent shingles or lessen its effects. The vaccine is for people 60 or over.

NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



What do you think?

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In Loving

Memory of Jessica Lehrke