



# Weekly Safety Tip

"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"

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*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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**Safety Slogan**

**Informed is better  
than deformed.  
James Lehrke-SCI**

**of the week**

## SCI Safety Tip: Give Employees a Hand with Hand Safety (Part 2)

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

Date: February 14, 2011

### Hand Safety Do's and Don'ts

If you tell your workers nothing else about hand safety, tell them to be sure they know where *both* their hands are at all times while they're working. So many hand injuries occur when employees are working with one hand, but forget where the other hand is, and it strays into a danger zone. Of course, you should tell your workers a lot more about hand safety than just that one warning—for example, these hand safety do's and don'ts:

#### Do:

- Wear appropriate hand protection when necessary.
- Pay attention to what you're doing.
- Make sure guards on machines and power tools are in place to keep hands away from moving parts.
- Use the right tool for the job.
- Follow instructions for using machines, power tools, and other tools safely.
- Be careful when handling sharp and pointed objects.
- Use a brush to sweep up broken glass, metal filings, etc.
- Clean and bandage cuts on hands and fingers to prevent infection.
- Give your hands a rest periodically, especially when performing repetitive tasks and tasks that require gripping objects or exerting force.

#### Don't:

- Don't use hands to feed stock into machines: use a push stick.
- Don't use hands to sweep up chips and debris.
- Don't use hands like a hammer to knock things into place.
- Don't wear gloves around machinery.
- Don't touch anything electrical with wet hands.
- Don't ignore skin irritation on hands; seek proper treatment.
- Don't forget to report hand hazards and hand accidents to a supervisor.

**Hand protection starts with information. Here are 10 steps to help you gather and analyze information about hand protection.**

Gloves are the primary form of hand protection. But all gloves aren't created equal, so you have to choose wisely if you want to ensure the best protection for employees' hands.

According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Safety and Health, PPE selection begins with gathering and analyzing information such as the following:

1. A complete and accurate description of the task for which gloves are required.
2. Identification of all hazards that may require hand protection. This should include a list of both chemical hazards and physical hazards like cuts, burns, etc.
3. Flexibility and touch sensitivity needed for the job. This may limit the thickness of the glove material that can be used. Also consider the need for textured or nonslip surfaces.
4. Durability and resistance to deterioration or other damage due to contact with chemicals, sharp objects, rough surfaces, heat, etc. This may involve a review of technical information about products such as permeation rate, breakthrough time, penetration, and degradation.
5. Types of contact—for example, occasional contact, splashes, or continuous immersion.
6. Duration of exposure.
7. Potential effects of skin exposure, such as irritation or corrosion, as well as systemwide health effects of chemical exposure.
8. Decontamination and cleaning versus disposal.
9. Required training, which should include a discussion of the hazards, glove selection, limitations of gloves, what could happen if gloves fail, safe glove removal to prevent contamination, and when to dispose of or decontaminate gloves.
10. Size requirements to suit range of hand sizes in your workforce.

## **SCI OSHA News: Agency Doing Everything Possible to Support Good, Safe Jobs**

**Source:** <http://www.osha.gov>

**Date:** February 15, 2011

**WASHINGTON** – Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, today issued the following statement as the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce holds a hearing on "Investigating OSHA's Regulatory Agenda and Its Impact on Job Creation." Michaels understands the committee's interest in examining the relationship between OSHA's regulatory agenda and job creation. The Labor Department is focused on doing everything possible to support the creation of good, safe jobs.

"I think we can all agree that the American economy must succeed but never at the cost of the safety or health of American workers. OSHA's goal is to ensure that everyone who goes to work returns home safely. I think we can also agree that the size of a business should not determine the level of protection that a worker receives. All workers have the same right to a safe workplace.

"Despite concerns about the effect of regulation on American business, there is clear evidence that OSHA's commonsense regulations have made working conditions in this country today far safer than 40 years ago when the agency was created, while at the same time protecting American jobs. The truth is that OSHA standards don't kill jobs. They stop jobs from killing workers. OSHA standards don't just prevent worker injuries and illnesses. They also drive technological innovation, making industries more competitive.

"Many OSHA standards cost little and easily can be adopted by employers with nominal effect on the bottom line. OSHA, by law and by practice, always looks at both the overall cost of compliance with a proposed regulation and at the expected benefits. The evidence shows that OSHA generally overestimates the cost of its standards. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment, comparing the predicted and actual costs of eight OSHA regulations, found that in almost all cases 'industries that were most affected achieved compliance straightforwardly, and largely avoided the destructive economic effects' that they feared. Standards intended to protect workers from cancer-causing chemicals such as vinyl chloride and ethylene oxide were shown to not only protect workers but also to increase productivity.

OSHA's trenching standard has significantly cut the death rate for construction workers, and OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard has almost eliminated work-related cases of hepatitis B and HIV.

"The failure to issue sensible regulations endangers not only workers' health and safety but also hurts American competitiveness. For example, because OSHA has a weak noise standard and weak enforcement, U.S. employers have no incentive to buy modern, quieter machines, which means that U.S. manufacturers don't build them, and there are few jobs in the U.S. for engineers who could design them. A recent study by the National Academy of Engineering concludes that European manufacturers are way ahead of us in designing and building modern, quieter machinery. Today, when businesses anywhere in the world want to buy quieter equipment, they look not to the United States but to Europe.

"As we approach OSHA's 40th anniversary, the agency's success has been well documented. An estimated 14,000 workers were killed on the job the year that Congress created OSHA. That number had fallen to approximately 4,340 in 2009. At the same time, U.S. employment has almost doubled and now includes more than 130 million workers at more than 7.2 million worksites. Since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the rate of reported serious workplace injuries and illnesses has declined from 11 per 100 workers in 1972 to 3.9 per 100 workers in 2008.

"But OSHA's job isn't over. More than 3 million workers in America are injured every year. Every day 12 workers die on the job. OSHA's commonsense regulations are helping to drive these numbers down and, at the same time, helping American businesses modernize and compete in the global economy."

## **SCI Health News: 4 of the Most Dangerous Myths About Washing Your Hands**

**Source:** [www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com)

**Date:** February 25, 2011

Becker's ASC Review reveals nine widely held myths about washing your hands. Here are a few of them:

### **Hot water is better than cold water for effective handwashing**

Scientists have found that various temperatures had "no effect on transient or resident bacterial reduction." Not only does hot water not show any benefit, but it might increase the "irritant capacity" of some soaps, causing dermatitis.

### **Hand sanitizers kill germs more effectively than soap**

Using alcohol-based hand-hygiene products is in general not more effective than washing your hands with plain soap and water.



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*In Loving  
Memory of Jessica Lefirke*

### **Frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizers promotes healthy skin**

In fact, contact dermatitis can develop from frequent and repeated use of hand hygiene products, exposure to chemicals and glove use.

### **Soap with triclosan is an effective antimicrobial for handwashing**

A recent study compared an antibacterial soap containing triclosan with a non-antibacterial soap. The results showed that the antibacterial soap did not provide any additional benefit. In addition, concerns have been raised about the use of triclosan because of the potential development of bacterial resistance.

### **Sources:**

Becker's ASC Review January 2011

Common Dreams January 25, 2011