

Keeping a handle on safety!

There are well over 1,000,000 hand injuries a year. 20% of all disabling workplace injuries involve the hands. Accidents don't just happen, they are caused by not paying attention and properly assessing the risks involved with the task at hand. Developing a thorough pre-task and implementing a game plan will go a long way towards preventing and avoiding unnecessary hand injuries. Listed below is the frequency of types of hand injuries reported with lacerations leading the way. It is important to address the type of work being done and what type of glove is required to complete the job safely.

Injury Types


Lacerations 63%

Crush 13%

Avulsion 8%

Puncture 6%

Fracture 5%



The primary cause of hand injuries is equipment not performing as expected

High risk hand injury activities in steel industry:

- Shaking out of iron / handling of material
- Power tools / grinders
- Pinch points / caught between
- Striking alignment tools / line of fire
- Hot work activities / welding



Do This!

- Wear gloves at all times when working.
- Make sure gloves fit properly.
- Wear the right glove for the application: Welding operations require leather welding gloves. When handling materials and for general use it is recommended to use leather work gloves.
- Keep safety guards intact on all tools during operation.
- Do not put hands / fingers in situations where pinch points are possible.
- Remove all hand jewelry before starting work.
- Use brushes to wipe away debris, not your hands.

Don't do this!

- Never operate power tools without proper P.P.E.: Gloves, Safety Glasses, Face Shields.
- Be sure all guards and safety features are intact while working with power tools.
- Be aware of pinch points, know where your hands and fingers are at all times.
- Do not use opened welding rod canisters for storage. The sharp steel edges can cause lacerations.



