

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



Home Healthy - Home Safe

Date: August 2022

Glove Markings and Selection

More than 43 percent of non-fatal occupational injuries involved hands (U.S. BLS). Additionally, OSHA states that roughly 70% of the injuries had the potential to be prevented had proper PPE been used, such as gloves. In construction the top three most common hand injuries are lacerations, crushes, and pulled muscles/tendons/detachments. While gloves cannot protect against all hand hazards it can greatly reduce injury caused by medium to low-level lacerations. When utilizing gloves, proper hand placement, equipment guarding, and communication hand injuries can be prevented.

In the past 5 years the industry has made many improvements on the dexterity gloves can offer while still maintain a high level of protection. ANSI cut 6 gloves now offer the same amount of dexterity of the user as an ANSI cut 1. If you are on a project that his handling lots of sheet metal with possible sharp edges, i.e., demolition work, then select a glove that is rated ANSI cut 6 or higher. Did you know the dipped palm of the glove is not what offers cut protection? The protection from sharp edges is in the weave of the material the glove is made from. The palm of the glove is simply for grip and abrasion protection.

For chemical handling refer to the product SDS to ensure you select the correct glove and PPE for handling. Chemical burns generally do not stop burning the skin, and may even burn down to deep tissue, until they are neutralized. Because of this selecting the wrong glove could lead to severe chemical burns if the individual spills it onto the incorrect gloves.



Activity	Glove Type
Daily Work – HVAC	ANSI Cut 4 Rated
Material Handling	ANSI Cut 4 Rated
Metal and Duct Work	ANSI Cut 6 Rated
Welding/Grinding	Leather Gloves
Chemical Handling	Butyl or Nitrile glove (refer to the product SDS)

HEALTH OR SAFETY REMINDER: Gloves may create a hazard when using some fabrication machines. Last year an Apollo apprentice got his hand sucked into a rotating mag drill due to wearing leather gloves that were too loose.

Levels A4, A5, A6 offer protection against sharp metal edges. Although they can still be cut and punctured, they offer a great level of protection than the common leather driver gloves.

Levels A7, A8, A9 offer protection for tasks that have a high cut hazard associated with them. Examples when to use these would be when you are handling glass, or sharpened metals like knives.

Discussion Points / Question:

1. Do the gloves you use match the protection needed for your daily tasks?