



Hand Safety

SAFETY ALERT

Lacerations (open wounds) account for 30% of the injuries in TAPS, mostly to hands and to a lesser extent, legs.

Most of these lacerations are due to not wearing gloves, or the gloves were deteriorated to the point they no longer provided sufficient protection.

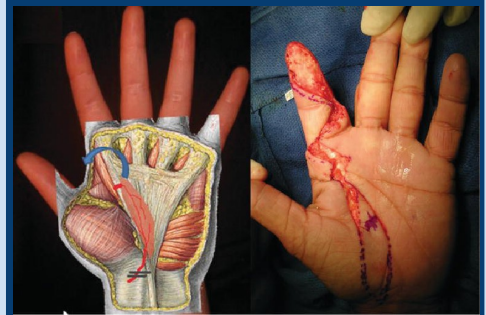
With hand injury occurrences, wearing gloves can mean the difference between the need for stitches to help with healing (2-4 weeks duration), versus the need for surgery to repair torn or severed ligaments (minimum 3 months duration). This difference is merely millimetres apart and can mean a scar versus the loss of hand flexibility, strength, and functionality.

How do you know if you have damaged a tendon in your finger or hand? The most common sign is the inability to bend, or a sense of tingling or pain when moving it.

On a construction site, sharp hazards will appear every day. It is important to always have your gloves clipped to your being and to wear them where there is a sharp hazard.

This will include when your grinding, sawing / hack sawing, hand drilling, handling roof sheets. To minimise this sharp hazard potential, keep your other hand (not holding the tool) well away from the rotating part or pinch point. This means away from directly behind the material being drilled or cut.

If your gloves need to be replaced, do not hesitate to notify your Field Consultant in advance. Field Consultants carry spare PPE in their vehicles and they will replace PPE items as soon as they can on their programmed apprentice visits.



STOP — THINK — DO

Need More Information

Contact: Graeme Webster – WHS Manager. Mobile: 0450 291 702 E: graemew@tapssa.com.au