

# Getting a Hand on safety Stats and Facts



## FACTS

### 1. Common causes of hand injuries include:

- Improper use of tools or using the incorrect tool
- Lifting or applying force incorrectly
- Using the wrong PPE or failing to utilize PPE
- Distraction and lack of awareness/focus due to complacency
- Inadequate assessment of risk
- Bypassing safety procedures
- Cutting corners or rushing

### 1. Common types of hand injuries include:

Bruises, pinches, lacerations, abrasions, strains, amputations, dislocations, Carpel Tunnel Syndrome, and Raynaud's Disease. The non-dominant hand is the most vulnerable to injury.

## STATS

- About 10 % of hand injuries result from the improper use of hand tools, while 40 percent are caused during the handling of materials. (Workplace Safety North, Ontario)
- Workers can avoid hand injuries by following these 6 safety tips: consider all potential hazards involved in a job before starting it; never take shortcuts; concentrate on the task being performed; always wear appropriate hand PPE; follow safety rules and safe working procedures; and practice good housekeeping.
- There are several types of workplace hazards that can cause serious hand and finger injuries, including these four: mechanical hazards, such as pinch points or cutting surfaces; personal hazards, such as jewelry, loose-fitting clothing, or improper PPE; contact hazards such as chemicals, electricity or hot/cold surfaces; and housekeeping hazards, including improper storage of equipment and slippery conditions.
- Every year in Canada, an estimated 500,000 work-related hand injuries occur. (Government of Canada Labour Program)
- An Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) study found that 70 % of the workers suffering hand injuries in manufacturing operations were not wearing safety gloves at the time of injury.

5 types of hand injuries are: lacerations (cuts), accounting for 63 % of the total; crush (13 %); avulsion (tearing of skin or soft tissue), accounting for eight percent; puncture (6 %); and fracture (five percent), according to the National Safety Council.