

# PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

## Tips

**A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.**

### **Protecting Your Hands**

Our work requires that we have full use of our hands so it is important that we protect them from injury. Statistics show us that 25% of all disabling injuries involve hands and fingers. This tip contains some advice on hazards and their controls, to keep your hands injury free.

#### **Common Causes of Hand Injuries**

Some of the common causes of injuries to hands and fingers are usually preventable? They include struck by objects such as a tool, pinched between objects being moved, cut by sharp objects, pierced by splinters and slivers, burned by hot objects or chemicals, and caught in moving machinery.

#### **Gloves for Protection**

As long as your skin remains unbroken, it can do a pretty good job of keeping germs out. Once it is opened by a scrape or cut germs can get in and infection can result. Because our skin acts as a protective barrier against infection, it is important to cleanse and dress even the slightest scrapes and cuts.

No matter how rugged you think your hands may be, they aren't tough enough to stop splinters, slivers, or to resist punctures. Gloves provide that extra layer of protection from these hazards. The nail that rips your glove would have injured you if your hand had been bare. Wear gloves whenever you are handling rough or sharp material. Use rubber gloves when working with chemicals, or other material that can irritate or permeate your skin. Wear gloves that fit properly and remember that gloves should not be worn when there is a possibility they can get caught in moving machinery.

#### **Guards as Protection**

Guards on power tools may sometimes seem like a nuisance by getting in your way. Equipment is equipped with guards to protect you from injury. By removing guards or otherwise making them ineffective, you increase your chances of getting hurt. Never use a drill, saw, or any other power tool that is missing the guarding device.

#### **Other Dangers**

Many hand injuries occur even when you are wearing gloves or using guards. Be alert to these dangers, too. Such injuries can result from the unexpected shifting of material, getting hands caught in pinch points, grabbing moving parts of the machinery, or holding work in the hands that should be held in a vise or securely clamped.

Your work would be much more difficult with a hand injury. Your leisure time would be much less enjoyable without full use of your hands. Take the time to consider the hazards and protect yourself from injury.

