

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

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

### Workplace Hygiene

Working in pest control brings us into contact with many contaminating substances. We work in the public and in homes where we have little or no control over the surroundings. We often work in rodent infested areas and in fact seek out areas where pests find harborage. Our contact with contaminating substances including the chemicals we apply, make good hygiene of the utmost importance. Even though washing our hands is a simple and logical task, it is still commonly overlooked.

What is on your hands gets ingested. How many times have you seen someone smoke a cigarette after working but before washing his or her hands? How about those who eat their lunch without washing their hands? Not one of us would intentionally eat the substances we use to control pests or dip a cigarette into a chemical before smoking. Even so, that happens when you eat your sandwich or smoke a cigarette without washing your hands. In addition to tobacco, smokers may be inhaling toxic substances that



have been placed on the cigarette from their hands. Remember, when most any chemical is heated or burned, its chemical makeup changes.

Clean clothing is a part of good hygiene. A person wearing clothes that have chemicals spilled on them is likely to experience skin problems. Work clothing should be changed daily. A daily shower and clean clothing reduces the chances of skin problems. Remember, dirty clothes and skin carry contaminants back to your home and family.

When we get a sliver, a nick, or a cut we typically go to the first-aid kit. We grab an adhesive bandage, quickly put it on, and go back to work.

Don't ignore small injuries like these. The wounded area should be washed with soap and water **before** the bandage goes on. A tetanus booster every ten years will help ensure that you will not develop infections from an injury to your skin.

A daily shower, followed by clean clothing, and frequent washing of hands, particularly before eating or smoking, will help to ensure that you remain healthy.

