**Hand Safety - Glove Selection**

**Glove selection is a critical step in preventing one of our most common types of injury. If properly selected, a glove can offer adequate protection without hindering our ability to perform our tasks.**

* **Hazard Assessment**
  + Should be conducted on a Job Safety Analysis or Task Safety Analysis form
  + Involve Supervisor and employees who perform the task
  + Should focus on a particular task
* **Prioritize Needs**
  + If tools, blocking, guarding, or other effective controls cannot eliminate the hazard then hand protection is needed.
  + Use the “Glove Needs Assessment & Selection” tool to gather and prioritize needs.
  + This is a collaborative process involves the employees who perform the work.
  + Ideally, gloves are selected which offer the highest protection while still allowing the wearer to perform their job unencumbered.
  + There is no single glove that offers every kind of protection and performance need.
  + Manufacturer’s now offer some gloves that do offer more than one primary form of protection, such as cut resistance and puncture resistance.
  + There are often tradeoffs between protection & performance. Higher levels of protection sometimes results in lower dexterity and vice-versa. Both factors are equally important in ensuring employees can perform their job well and safely.
  + Ignoring the importance of dexterity in a task will result in employees taking their gloves off to perform a task that requires hand protection
  + If the hazard poses potential for high severity injuries, a glove with greater protection takes precedence over dexterity.
  + If the hazards are lower in severity such as nicks, scrapes, and pokes and high dexterity is needed, then a glove with the index finger and thumb tip removed may offer the best solution.
* **Identify the right glove**
  + If the gloves there do not meet your needs, look at other manufacturer’s offerings and request your choice be added .
  + Engage employees, similar sites and programs, and safety professionals to ensure the right selection is made
* **Preparing to order**
  + Determine what sizes the gloves are offered in. Some may offer S, M, or L others use numerical sizing such as 5, 6, or 7.
  + Locate a sizing chart for the glove through the manufacturer.
  + Gather sizes and quantity info from employees. The glove must fit properly in order to do the job well and safely.
  + Place order.

**If you have a tool in your hand, you should have a glove on your hand**