



# Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry

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## Standard Subscription

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 32

JANUARY 2015

## Gloves Are PPE

Think about your fingers and thumbs for a minute and consider your life without them. These mechanical marvels help us grasp objects, give us the ability to accomplish tasks that require touch, and they allow us to pick up and carry our children. Too often, construction workers suffer injuries because they fail to protect their hands and fingers. A good pair of gloves can provide a barrier from a variety of injuries.

When choosing the right pair of gloves for the task at hand, keep in mind that you can select from a wide range of gloves that offer different kinds of protection. Some offer cut resistance, others can withstand high temperatures, and still others provide protection from chemicals. The right pair of gloves can provide protection, comfort, and even increase your productivity.

**Cut-Resistant Gloves** are often made of Kevlar or wire mesh and offer cut and sometimes puncture protection for the palms, fingers, and the back of the hand. They are lightweight and flexible. Many styles feature rubbery, high-tac dots or stripes to give you a solid grip.

**Temperature-Resistant Gloves** are designed for tasks involving extreme temperatures such as welding. This kind of glove often features thick leather, synthetic coatings, insulation, glass cloth, or aluminized backing.

**Chemical-Resistant Gloves** are made from synthetic materials such as latex, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), nitrile, butyl, or neoprene. This type of glove offers chemical resistance, degradation resistance, and provides you with a better grip.

**Leather Work Gloves** are perhaps the most familiar type of gloves for construction workers. Cowhide is comfortable, durable, and resists abrasion. Pigskin is extremely breathable and returns to original pliability after getting wet. Goatskin offers the greatest softness and tactile sensitivity with strength and abrasion resistance. Grain leather and split leather also offer protection and abrasion resistance.

Gloves protect your hands, but they can make it more difficult to maintain a firm grip. Make sure that you can maintain a firm grip on tools, materials, railings, etc. whenever you're wearing gloves. We don't want protecting your hands to result in a falling object injury.

Injuries to hands and fingers can be severe and debilitating, so selecting the appropriate pair of gloves is essential. Even a minor finger injury can be very painful, may take a long time to heal, and will hinder your daily activities. Plan ahead to avoid injuries. Think about the tasks you need to complete, identify the hazards that are present, and then choose the right gloves for the job. Make gloves a part of your personal protective equipment routine. If you have questions about which gloves are right for a specific task, check with your supervisor.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**When providing first aid, CPR, or cleaning up after an accident or injury, wear latex gloves to protect yourself from exposure to infectious bodily fluids.**

**NOTES:**

SPECIAL TOPICS / EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:  
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S.A.F.E. CARDS\* PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:  
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REVIEWED MSDS # \_\_\_\_\_ SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING DOCUMENTATION:**

JOB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTENDEES:  
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## Conveyors, Pinch Points, & Lockout/Tagout

Conveyors provide a safe, efficient, and convenient way to move construction materials. You've probably seen them around construction sites. Portable conveyors feed roofing shingles up to roofers. Concrete trucks may be equipped with conveyors. Permanent batch plants use conveyors to feed materials like sand, gravel, and cement up to the top of a hopper. Tree grinders and soil pulverizers use conveyors.

The convenience of conveyors doesn't come without hazards. Conveyors use combinations of belts, chains, sprockets, rollers, pulleys, screw gears, and lots of rotating parts. Some of these elements may be moving slowly, but others rotate at high speeds. Any body part, hair, jewelry, or clothing that comes in contact with those moving parts can be nipped, pinched, squeezed, entrapped, or just ripped off completely. Your fingers, hands, and arms don't stand a chance if you get caught.

Guards are safety devices put in place to protect you from coming in contact with moving parts. Never alter or remove guards. Don't work near a conveyor with missing guards or other damaged safety devices. Stay clear of all moving parts. Maintain a safe distance and heed all startup alarms or signals. Know the locations of all stop/start controls. Never operate or work near a conveyor without the proper training.

You should also never attempt to service or adjust a conveyor unless you are trained and authorized to do that

kind of maintenance. If you will be working on a conveyor, make sure you follow your employer's lockout/tagout procedure. Never perform service or adjustments on a conveyor until it is completely locked out. Always lock out the power source, release all stored energy, put a lock or tag on every start switch, and test the system to be sure it won't start up. If you are responsible for locking out equipment, follow LOTO procedures to the letter.

Once you are done with repairs, be sure to replace all guards that may have been removed. After reversing all your lockout steps, check the conveyor line to be sure everything and everyone is clear prior to starting it back up. It's always a good practice to visually inspect the system and verbally convey to your co-workers that the conveyor is about to restart. Remove your lock only after you are certain it is safe to restart the conveyor.

The hazards of conveyors can be minimized with proper training and safe work practices. Always be aware of your distance from a conveyor. Report missing guards, faulty emergency stop buttons, and damaged conveyors to your supervisor immediately.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**Head protection is essential when working near elevated conveyors. Conveyed objects can fall onto workers below. Always wear your hard hat.**

**NOTES:**

SPECIAL TOPICS / EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS / NOTES:

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## Safety Inspections for Forklifts

If your work today requires the use of a forklift, you can't just jump into the operator's seat, start the lift, and take off. You must conduct a pre-shift safety inspection before you operate the lift. To protect your safety and the safety of those working around you, it's essential that you know what to look for during a pre-shift inspection.

The correct way to conduct a pre-shift inspection is to get a copy of the manufacturer's instructions on vehicle maintenance and operation, read through them carefully, and follow all the recommendations.

### Here are a few items to consider:

- Does the engine have oil in it? Make sure the level isn't too high or too low. If the oil is low, you could cause damage to the engine.
- Did you check the radiator to be sure the coolant is at the right level?
- Is the fuel tank full? If you need to fill the tank, make sure the engine is off and that the engine is cool.
- Does the horn work? Test it.
- Do the lights work? Switch them on and off to be sure.
- Is there a fire extinguisher on board? Make sure it's fully charged and that the needle is in the green zone.
- Are the brakes capable of stopping the vehicle when you drive forward and in reverse? Step on them to see if you have any pedal left.

- Is the lift equipped with a back-up alarm? Test it.
- Are the mirrors adjusted to the proper positions?
- Is there a load capacity chart posted in the operator's cab? Can you read it? Do you understand it?
- Does the steering work properly? Check it.
- Are the tires inflated? Do they need air? Are any of them bald?
- Is the seat belt in place and working properly? Make sure you wear it anytime you operate the lift.
- When you start the lift, do you hear any unusual noises?
- Is the oil pressure gauge in good working order?
- Are your forks and attachments set in the right positions?

If you find something wrong with the forklift, follow the correct procedure to take it out of service. Never operate a forklift that has failed any aspect of the pre-shift safety inspection.

Thoroughly inspecting your forklift is not optional—it is required. The consequences of bypassing this important step can be fatal. You could cause an accident that results in serious injuries or casualties. Be careful. Be safe.

### SAFETY REMINDER

**Each type of powered industrial truck is unique. Your inspection checklist should be modified for each specific type of truck.**

### NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

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