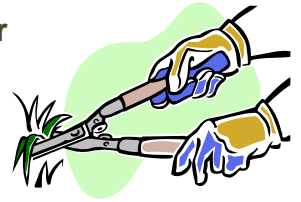


Topic of the Month... Prevention of Cuts & Lacerations

With Spring time around the corner, many of us are gearing up for our outdoor activities. With most of these outdoor activities comes an increased potential for hand and arm cut injuries. Before you begin these operations, please take a few moments to assess your job tasks to determine what protective equipment is required. Typically, cuts rank as the third most frequently occurring occupational injury and most are preventable. There are a variety of causes that can contribute to these injuries. They include:



- Improper training
- Hurrying, Inattention
- Not wearing PPE
- Hand Tools
- Lack of established procedures
- Powered machinery
- Missing Guards
- Poor Housekeeping
- Improper Lighting for the task
- Improper tool for the job

How do we prevent Cuts?

- Train employees to use established safety procedures.
- Maintain proper machine guarding.
- Use Lockout/Tagout Procedures.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Proper tool use and maintenance.
- Good Housekeeping.



Of course, one of the most common sources of cuts is the use of knives and other cutting tools, therefore:

- ▶ Inspect tools before use.
- ▶ Keep work area clear.
- ▶ Maintain control of the tool.
- ▶ Cut away from your body; keep your body out of the line of fire.
- ▶ Secure the item being cut.
- ▶ Use a sharp blade; a dull blade requires greater force which increases the hazard.
- ▶ Dispose of all blades in a sharps container.
- ▶ Never use a cutting blade as a screwdriver or pry bar.
- ▶ Don't leave exposed blades unattended.
- ▶ Store cutting tools properly.
- ▶ Only use knives with a blade locking device.
- ▶ Wear gloves; use the right glove for the job.
- ▶ NEVER wear loose fitting gloves around rotating equipment.



With a little preparation these injuries are preventable! We cannot depend on the "Luck of the Irish" to protect us from all workplace hazards.

Thanks for your time. Let's work together to make Georgia a safer place to work.

DOAS Risk Management Services Division Loss Control Office

Contact us by email: losscontrol@doas.ga.gov or call (404) 656-6245 for additional information.