

<b>Talk No:</b> 51	<b>Title:</b> HAND SAFETY
<p><b>Introduction:</b> Our hands are one of our most important tools we have. The hand consists of bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles, nerves, blood vessels and skin and it is easy to take the complex anatomy, of the hand, for granted.</p> <p>Over time we become complacent to the workplace hazards and place our hands in the line of fire, or at-risk positions that can result in injury. The severity of the injury is dependent on the hazardous conditions present and/or precautions we have taken.</p>	
<p><b>Main points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some Hand Hazards We Work With. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Extreme temperatures, pinch/crush points, rotating equipment, sharp objects, chemicals, vibrating equipment, and blood-borne pathogens.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Some of the Most Common Types of Injures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lacerations/cuts, puncture wounds, broken fingers, contusions (bruises), burns (electrical/chemical/thermal), infections, and amputated fingers</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Some Common Causes of Hand Injuries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Use of faulty or improperly maintained tools and equipment, failure to use guards, kill switches, lockout/tagout, wearing jewellery or loose fitting gloves around moving parts, using sharp tools and equipment and chemicals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Know the hazards and dangers in the job to be completed</li> <li>- Be aware of pinch/crush points, hot areas, rotating or moving parts</li> <li>- Don't wear loose gloves, clothing or jewellery that may be caught in moving machinery</li> <li>- Never operate machinery with safeguards removed</li> <li>- Use the proper tool for the task</li> <li>- Inspect tools and equipment before use</li> <li>- Use brushes to wipe away debris</li> <li>- Follow lockout tag out procedures</li> <li>- Always keep hands behind sharp tools and equipment</li> </ul> <p><i>Safe hand placement is critical when we are protecting our hands from hazards. A simple concept to remember is <b>"A foot can save a hand"</b>. Whenever your hands are within a foot of a hazardous condition take a moment to recognise, evaluate and control the hazard.</i></p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	