



## Hand Injuries Create 1 Million ER Visits a Year

Every year, hand injuries result in more than a million emergency room visits, making them the second-most common work-related injury, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The most important reason to reduce these numbers is worker health and safety. But a compelling business case for accident prevention exists, too. The direct costs of hand injuries are very high, but the indirect costs—such as lost productivity, training for replacement workers and even negative publicity—are even higher.

To reduce these costs, our customers need to make sure their workers wear appropriate protective gloves to prevent cuts and abrasions, the most common type of hand injuries.

### True Cost of Hand Injuries

Here are some sobering statistics from a study appearing in *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*:

- Stiches can cost up to \$2,000, mending a laceration can cost up to \$10,000, and repairing a severed tendon can easily exceed \$10,000.
- The BLS reports the average hand injury claim has now exceeded \$6,000, with each lost-time workers' compensation claim reaching \$7,500.

These are only the tip of the iceberg. According to ASSE, indirect costs of injuries can be up to 20 times the direct costs. Other indirect, virtually incalculable cost can include the expense of investigating the accident, lost worker productivity,

damage to workers' morale that leads to absenteeism, and a negative impact on the company's reputation.

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