

# Safety Alert

## HAND SAFETY

Issue Date: 26 September 2018

### Context:

RMIT has noted an increase in hand injuries in recent months, incidents have occurred when workers have unintentionally put their body or parts of their body in the line of fire of a moving object.

**All of these incidents had the potential to cause serious harm to the workers involved.**

**All of these incidents were avoidable!**

Work-related hand injuries are one of the leading reasons workers end up in the emergency room, miss work ...and fingers!!!

### Hazard:

- Complacency – You have completed a task many times and have never been hurt before
- Workers not considering the potential hazards associated with a task
- Poor hand or body position
- Handling or struck by sharp objects
- Struck by or against objects
- Caught in pinch points



### Actions Required:

- Always stay alert and focused on keeping yourself and others safe – not just at the start of work or a task
- Don't put your hands or fingers in the line of fire – think of where your body, hand and fingers are positioned
- Keep hands and fingers away from sharp edges (blades, protruding nails, etc.)
- Never cut toward the palm of your hand
- Use tools and equipment designed for the work being performed and use them as instructed by your supervisor and/or the manufacturer
- Risk assess the task and apply controls including PPE requirements
- Use the right glove for the right task
- Look out for your mates, especially apprentices
- Remember you cannot depend solely on gloves to protect your hands

**GLOVES AND SAFETY PROCEDURES WON'T WORK IF THEY'RE NOT USED OR FOLLOWED**

