

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

September/October 2004

## Safety Scene

(G)Love Your Hands by SBC Staff

*Do you know the most effective hand protection to contend with the sharpness of the metal connector plate in the truss plant?*

Let's be honest: metal connector plate teeth are sharp. Very sharp. In order to be effective, they have to be sharp. In fact, according to a safety video by WTCA and FLBMDA, 80 percent of injuries in the truss plant are cuts and scrapes that occur primarily due to the handling of metal connector plates and inadvertently coming in contact with the teeth. When it comes to protecting your hands on the job, it's important to know what your options are.

### QUESTION:

Can you recommend any specific type of glove for protection from cuts and lacerations?

### ANSWER:

The WTCA Operation Safety Program recommends metal, mesh and canvas gloves for hand protection when metal connector plates are being handled. These gloves can also be used when handling preservative treated lumber. There are several gloves on the market. Conney Safety Products ([www.conney.com](http://www.conney.com)) sells a glove from the Perfect Fit Glove Company, Inc, that has a Cotton Coated Palm. They also sell a Disposable Nitrile glove. The Northern Safety Catalog ([www.northersafety.com](http://www.northersafety.com)) has a series of Nitrile Laminated Gloves manufactured by Best Manufacturing Company ([www.bestglove.com](http://www.bestglove.com)).

One component manufacturer we talked to recommended the following gloves that have worked extremely well for employees in his plant. Both come from Airgas Safety ([www.b2b.airgas.com](http://www.b2b.airgas.com)). The two glove types are:

- 1.) BEX S PVC Impregnated Stretch Slip-on SZ Medium (# 783171)
- 2.) Nu Fangle Plus Nitrile Impregnated Vent Mesh SZ Med (# 774124) or Large (# 774125)

In addition to the various glove types suited specifically for employees handling metal connector plates, there are a wide variety of materials used to make gloves designed for every possible workplace hazard. They include:

- **Metal, Mesh & Canvas Gloves:** Protect against cuts, burns and sustained heat.
- **Leather gloves:** Leather protects against sparks, moderate heat, wood chips and rough

objects and surfaces.

- **Aluminized gloves:** Aluminized are used for welding, furnace and foundry work because they provide protection against heat.
- **Aramid fiber gloves:** Aramid is a synthetic material that protects against heat and cold.
- **Synthetic materials:** These gloves protect against heat and cold, as well as being cut and abrasive resistant.
- **Fabric & Coated Fabric Gloves:** Made from cotton and other fabric.
  - **Fabric gloves:** These protect against dirt, slivers, chafing and abrasion.
  - **Coated fabric gloves:** Made from cotton flannel and napping on one side and used for tasks like working with wire rope to handling chemical containers.
- **Chemical & Liquid Resistant Gloves:** Made from rubber, plastic or synthetic rubber-like material. May also be used for protection against preservative treated wood.
- **Butyl rubber gloves:** These gloves protect against nitric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrofluoric acid and peroxide.
- **Natural latex or rubber gloves:** These gloves resist abrasions caused by sandblasting, grinding, polishing and acid solutions.
- **Neoprene gloves:** These gloves protect against hydraulic fluids, gasoline, alcohols, organic acids and alkalis.
- **Nitrile rubber gloves:** These gloves provide protection from chlorinated solvents.

Although gloves may provide a means of protection against cuts and lacerations, many truss manufacturers have found the use of gloves less than desirable because they restrict hand and finger movement. Some manufacturers have changed to protecting fingers by wrapping them with athletic or self-adhesive cloth tape. This type of protection has been found to provide adequate defense against cuts while also allowing the necessary dexterity.

In addition, one component manufacturer noted that sometimes gloves give his workers a false sense of security; therefore, they are not as careful as they should be. The best thing any component manufacturer can do is continually stress how sharp metal connector plate teeth are and follow through with disciplinary actions when mishandling occurs.

---

To pose a question for this column or to learn more about WTCA's Operation Safety Program, contact WTCA Staff at 608/274-4849, email [wtca@woodtruss.com](mailto:wtca@woodtruss.com), or view the Operation Safety demonstration online at [www.wtcatko.com](http://www.wtcatko.com).

---

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2004 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership

role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).