



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



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Improper PPE Selection During Power Tool Use

A Soft Crafts division employee was performing sanding operations using a pneumatic sander when the tool shifted unexpectedly. The employee lost control of the sander, which struck his right middle finger, resulting in a minor laceration. He was medically evaluated on location, the wound was cleaned, a bandage applied, and he was released to work without restriction.



Incident Findings:

- The approved PPE Matrix was not reviewed during the job planning and JSEA development.
- The PPE selected was insufficient for the task.

Expectations:

PPE must be **selected using the approved PPE Matrix** prior to performing the task.

The PPE Matrix is designed to ensure PPE selection is hazard-based, task-specific, and consistent across operations.

- Select PPE based on:
 - Task being performed.
 - Type of tool.
 - Potential hazards (abrasion, cuts, flying debris, dust, noise, chemical exposure, etc.)

When conditions change, stop work, regroup, reassess the hazards and the PPE requirements.

Safe Work Practices:

- Inspect tools prior to use and verify guards and safety features are in place.
- Maintain a firm, controlled grip; use two hands when tool design allows.
- Keep hands out of the line of fire and away from rotating equipment.
- Maintain stable footing and body positioning.
- Maintain clear visibility of the work surface.
- **Stop Work** immediately if tool control is compromised.

Key Takeaway:

- The **PPE Matrix is not optional**, it is the standard for PPE selection.
- Minor injuries are **early warning signs**. Proper planning, correct PPE selection using the matrix, and disciplined tool control prevent serious injuries.

Plan the task.

Confirm the plan is understood. Verify hazards have been identified. Ensure controls, and PPE are in place.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

SAFETY ALERT

