



# SAFETY BRIEF

## PUNCTURE WOUNDS

Puncture wounds are common injuries that can occur on job sites with sharp objects, loose nails or damaged pieces of wood. It's important to know how to prevent puncture wounds and what to do if you get one.

### PREVENTING PUNCTURE WOUNDS

- Always remove nails from wood when rails, guards or braces are dismantled
- Place scrap lumber in a separate pile away from your workstation
- Regularly clean up your work area and keep a lookout for nails or staples on the floor
- Use the correct tool for the job at hand
- Be extremely cautious when using power tools that drive nails or staples and when using high-pressure equipment
- Wear protective equipment such as steel toe boots, gloves or safety glasses
- Cut away from your body when using sharp tools

### FIRST AID TREATMENT

If you receive a puncture wound, treat it with extra care even if it doesn't appear to be severe. Failure to do so may result in infection. The Mayo Clinic recommends the following treatments for puncture wounds.

- If the puncture wound is severe, meaning it's bleeding excessively or does not stop bleeding after 10 minutes of applying pressure, call 911
- If you are assisting someone else, wash your hands and put on latex gloves before handling the wound
- Remove the object if you are able
- Apply pressure to the area to stop the bleeding
- Apply an antibiotic ointment and cover the area with bandages
- Change the bandages daily or whenever they become dirty
- Be on the lookout for any signs of infection such as increased pain, swelling, redness, fever or red streaks extending from the affected area



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