



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-01-99

Date: February 4, 1999

TO: All Langley Employees

FROM: 429/Head, Office of Safety and Facility Assurance, OSEMA

SUBJECT: Hand and Finger Safety

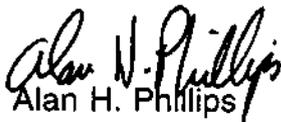
During Fiscal Year 1998 fifty-eight percent (60 cases) of the injuries sustained by civil servants were hand and finger injuries. Within the work environment at LaRC, there are numerous industrial shops, chemical laboratories, research labs, wood, metal, and composite labs, which have a number of hand and finger hazards. By paying attention to your hands during the performance of your job, injuries can be avoided.

Remember the following precautions when performing your day to day tasks:

- * When cutting materials on a saw use a push stick.
- * Keep hands away from moving machine parts.
- * Always cut away from your body.
- * Use brushes, not hands to sweep up wood or metal chips.
- * Check materials for sharp edges, burrs, and splinters.
- * Make sure you know the temperature of an object before handling.
- * Lift so that your hands are not near pinch points.
- * Put materials down carefully, so as not to smash your fingers.
- * Use the right tool for the right job and use it correctly.
- * Store tools so that no sharp edges are exposed.
- * Use Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, finger guards, etc.) when handling sharp objects or working with chemicals.

It is important to safeguard your hands and fingers by following common-sense safety procedures.

The Office of Safety and Facility Assurance offers training classes on Hand Tool Safety which may be scheduled by contacting Mr. Butch Jones at extension 48743.


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