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Date Issued: July 3, 2008

INCIDENT ALERT

A laborer was tasked with cleaning the front of a counter. The task was associated with a "final clean" prior to occupancy. During construction a stainless steel cover had been installed on the front of the counter. As the laborer was wiping the lower portion of the counter his left hand struck the edge of the steel, removing a layer of skin. He reported the injury to his supervisor, who contacted the jobsite safety officer. First aid was applied and the worker was also transported to a nearby emergency room where he received a stitch and was returned to work.

LESSONS LEARNED

The incident investigation pointed out several issues that contributed to the injury. First, this was the employees first day on the job and he had not received a safety orientation from his employer. In addition, his employer did not assure that he received the site specific safety orientation. Second, though his employer requires the use of gloves, the worker did not know of the requirement and had not been given gloves to wear. Third, no task planning had been implemented. Had the supervisor taken the time to develop an effective task specific plan he would have identified the need for training, review of applicable material safety data sheets, and the personal protective equipment necessary to safely complete the job at hand.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ask your contractor about how they manage job hazard analysis and task planning for common daily tasks. Ask how workers are included in the task planning and job hazard analysis process. Ask how they verify workers have attended requisite safety orientations and training and that they have been issued the necessary personal protective equipment.

2. Watch for tasks that may result in similar injuries during your walk through. Are workers exposed to sharp edges? Are they wearing gloves? Have they developed a task plan that addresses these issues?

3. Share this Incident Alert with your contractor and ask them to share it with their workers.

Distribution:
All CPO Staff