





# Power in our own hands

Hand injuries can significantly affect quality of life and work performance. Despite their preventable nature, this type of injury is common in workplaces, including the renewable energy sector. Mechanix Wear offers specialized PPE solutions to address these hazards. Through programs like TRACK, the brand provides comprehensive assessments and trials to ensure optimal hand protection, reducing injuries and improving productivity.

The hand is a critical body part. Any injury can alter quality of life, impact a person's ability to earn a living, or perform essential life functions without assistance.

According to the US National Library of Medicine, hand injuries account for one-third of all work injuries, one-third of chronic injuries, one-fourth of lost-time injuries, and one-fifth of permanent disabilities. Many of the recorded hand and finger injuries are preventable, yet front-line employees still make excuses for not wearing the proper PPE that can prevent injury and protect the employee's hands.

In addition, there are some employers who may not provide the right or adequate protection levels for the identified hazards because of the absence of a risk assessment for the work area or assigned tasks.

Even with proper training and PPE available, there are still employees who will not wear the gloves that will protect them. Various reasons are given for this. They mention that the gloves feel hot when worn, are ill-fitting, retain moisture against the skin from sweat or exposure to water, are bulky and restrict grip and dexterity, and need to be removed to handle parts, tools, or connectors. Additionally, gloves must be taken off to use hand-held devices such as radios, phones, or screens.

Employees working in the renewable energy sector face unique mechanical and thermal hazards while installing, servicing or maintaining assets and infrastructure.

Turbine technicians, electrical installation teams, jointers and other workers are exposed to severe lacerations, punctures, avulsions, crushing injuries, infections, and thermal and chemical burns.

While there is no one type of protection that addresses all the hazards, with today's technology and competitive manufacturing, there are protective gloves available that address the employees' 'reasons' above as to why they choose to not wear the provided PPE.

Nick Green, General Manager of Mechanix Wear's UK branch, reminds us, 'you don't need to be an expert in hand protection to be a great health & safety professional, but it isn't always straight forward how to balance employee safety with productivity numbers, all while working with limited resources and equipment.'

This is why glove manufacturers, like Mechanix Wear, offer on-site walkarounds to help you detect and solve potential safety concerns. These onsite assessments are a great option if you need support to solve an ongoing safety concern or find the right PPE for an identified hazard.

Perhaps you need a second set of eyes to reveal hazards that have become a 'routine' in your facility. These PPE experts work closely with the client to identify hazards, avoid injuries, and cost-saving opportunities. This is done by conducting a detailed assessment to gain a deep understanding of your program, your practices, your needs,



The M-Pact® S5CP-08 glove

your injury trends and observing employee tasks. At the end of the process your company will have a better understanding of the job-specific hand protection requirements and product samples you can test with your front-line people in their work environment.

Trial Research and Collaboration Kit (TRACK) is the assessment program provided by Mechanix Wear. The TRACK program offers a full evaluation of tasks and work areas, with particular emphasis on injuries, as well as high-cost risks that can be prevented with technical hand protection.

The service is completely cost and obligation free and includes product samples for workers and full ROI calculations with hard numbers and comparisons with current safety solutions. Whether you choose to partner with Mechanix Wear or not, each TRACK trial ends with a solutions-based report that shows improvements made, comparisons of current costs of current products, and the expected ROI and productivity improvements.

If you choose to invest in Mechanix Wear's premium PPE, your company stands to benefit in several ways. You can anticipate a decrease in both the number and severity of injuries among employees. Compliance with OSHA standards through the use of premium PPE can help evade fines and penalties. Additionally, the enhanced safety and comfort provided by Mechanix Wear gear have the potential to boost overall productivity, efficiency, and employee morale. Simplifying and reducing PPE inventory by standardizing on Mechanix

Wear products can streamline management and cut costs. Lastly, consolidating SKUs by opting for Mechanix Wear equipment can result in significant savings.

Nick goes on to tell us of a recent program the brand ran for an energy company servicing +2 million customers with 1,200 employees. 'We were told by our distribution partner that this specific customer had been trialing gloves for quite literally years and nothing has lasted more than a day. We were up for the challenge because these are the situations where this PPE really stands out.'

Although workers were wearing hand protection when undertaking various tasks, such as access and egress to submersed pumping equipment, removal, service and overhaul of heavy plant and equipment, they still faced serious hand injuries. Many workers complained of back of the hand injuries and minor nicks to the and nips to the fingertips.

Besides not providing adequate protection, the gloves the workers were using would wear out after a single day's use. Typically, the company went through approximately 1,000 pairs per month. The inadequate protection, as well as the lack of durability of the gloves in use, provided more than enough motivation to seek out a better solution.

Mechanix Wear, along with a distributor partner, implemented an on-site assessment and glove trial comprising 20 pairs of gloves across 10 individuals, through the TRACK program. The company went into its arsenal of feature rich, application specific solutions and pulled out the M-Pact® S5CP-08 that was specifically designed to protect against

impact injury and built on a cut resistant liner (EN388 Level D) that combated the risk of nicks and cuts to the hand and finger tips, whilst maintaining enough dexterity to complete the tasks effectively and efficiently.

'The workers liked the strength, comfort and performance the gloves provided, they also loved the fact that they could data input into their devices, without having to remove the glove. The management liked that the glove lasted four times as long as the previous gloves, thereby reducing usage, discarded used PPE and saving money in the long run.

'It's about value, not price. Anyone can swap your PPE with lower-priced, and lower quality, products, but incorrect PPE can cost you in many ways, and not just financial,' emphasizes Green.

Nick goes on to tell us, 'There are so many glove choices in the market today, but the truth is that not all gloves are created equal.'

The globally recognized M-Pact® glove range, some of which are constructed from over 40 separate pieces, is engineered specifically for the rigors of renewable energy work. Features like D30® palm protection, knuckle impact and thumb saddle reinforcement guard against hazards from sharp edges, blunt impact, using heavy tools and handling heavy machinery components.

The form-fitting designs allow full dexterity and grip control so workers can securely manipulate small parts and tools. In essence, the M-Pact® range of gloves provide comprehensive protection without limiting flexibility, feel, and performance, crucial for working efficiently in hazardous conditions.

The hand is one of the most complex pieces of engineering in the human body. Our fingers contain some of the densest areas of nerve endings. They are even more sensitive than our eyes. Forty percent of the hand's capabilities are vested in the thumb. It is controlled by nine individual muscles which are themselves controlled by all three major hand nerves. How you protect your hands matters.

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#### Put Mechanix wear to the test

Over the past 30 years, the Mechanix Wear brand has led the industry in automotive, industrial, and tactical hand protection.

It offers a full line of protective gloves that meet the renewable energy sectors hazards head on, will protect employees' hands and fingers, and prevent most injuries from occurring.