

# Your Hands Play a Part in Everything You Do... Protect Them

Edited version of narration from Victoria Plant film on Hand Safety

No matter what the season, what you are doing or when you are doing it, chances are your hands will play a mighty important role.

The human hand is one of the most functional devices ever conceived. Only God could have made it. It consists of the palm, a thumb, and four fingers and if you ever studied human anatomy you might remember that your hand's skeletal framework contains 19 bones. These are covered by many intricate muscles, tendons, ligaments, and connective tissues. Throughout the hand and fingers there's also a network of nerves and vessels.

The delicate, precise construction of the hand enables it to pick up the tiniest object or grasp a cumbersome one. It can perform the most intricate procedure as well as accomplish everyday tasks. Without your precious hands how could you pick up a fork to eat, hold a pencil, open a door or turn the pages of a newspaper, how would you deal a hand of bridge?

People have overcome worse handicaps than losing a hand. They're still able to go through some semblance of a normal life, but just ask someone who's lost one of his hands if he really misses it.

Here at Du Pont almost everything we do requires the use of our hands whether we work on big jobs or on small ones. But, constant vigilance teamed with protective equipment, mostly gloves, prevents injuries.

But gloves are not always required. Gloves can be extremely hazardous around some moving machinery like a lathe in the machine shop. Many times your good common sense tells you when to wear gloves whether a written procedure calls for them or not.

Employees work with their hands and their heads but their hands are exposed to far more injuries. If they didn't use their heads, their hands wouldn't last very long. They must be constantly alert to hidden hazards like feeling for something without watching and subsequently sustaining a puncture wound or cut. And

there's always a chance of burns on pipes or other metal material being installed or repaired.

Our safety performance is very important to everyone at Du Pont. Past records indicate that hands and fingers are hurt more often than any other parts of our bodies. Company-wide about 37% of all major and sub-major injuries involve hands and fingers. (At Brevard, they account for over 50% of all injuries in 1976). By their very nature our hands and fingers are just aimed at trouble . . . in the sense of getting injured.

Your precious hands were made for you to use in almost everything you do at work here on the plant and at home.

So use your hands but remember how easily they can be hurt and how much you depend on them everyday all day long. Whenever possible use them to hold a tool, not as a tool! Protect your hands and guard them carefully. You need them today — you'll need them tomorrow — and you'll need them as long as you live . . .

