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# VITALS

*A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals*

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## *National Safety Council (NSC) Workplace Solutions*



Pick up any Medical Transportation Industry journal and you'll get to feast your eyes on advertisements for a huge variety of products. Some of the products are advertised with specific descriptors that might not mean anything unless one has used a similar product or is familiar with standards. Protective glove ads are a good example.



The January 2008 issue of the NSC Safety + Health offered an article by Jeff Moreland, a textile technologist, which answered the question: "What is the difference between cut resistance and cut protection, and how do I select the right protective glove for my application?"

Moreland defined cut resistance as "a material property defined by the amount of energy or force required to cut through a material using a moving blade." The ASTM F1790 test for cut resistance, when coupled with the ANSI/ISEA 105 glove selection criteria, provides a cut resistance scale. The scale ranges from 0 to 5 but may not adequately simulate actual working conditions. It is important to note that cut resistance is just one factor in cut protection.

All applications and environments in which the glove will be used must be considered. A decision can't be made solely on the basis of a scale. Dexterity, grip control, temperature, moisture and the presence of chemical agents are all considerations in glove selection.

Once an informed decision on glove selection is made, the glove selected must be incorporated into the overall plan for using personal protective equipment. Written policies and procedures should be in place and enforced.

A piece of equipment is an engineering control. It must be joined by administrative and behavioral controls to work properly.

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