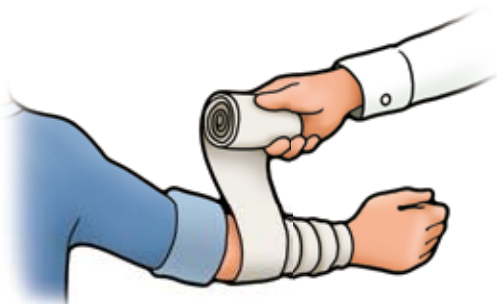


- Clean and dress skin wound properly immediately after injury to prevent infection. Seek medical advice if necessary.



- Workers in specific industries may, depending on the risk of infection, seek professional advice from doctors and decide whether it is necessary to receive pre-employment immunization, such as hepatitis B vaccination.



- Follow doctor's advice and receive appropriate immunization after skin injuries, for example, anti tetanus injection.

Enquiries:

Telephone : 2852 4041
Fax : 2581 2049
Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk

Information on the services offered by the Labour Department and on major labour legislation can also be found on our website <http://www.labour.gov.hk>.

Complaints:

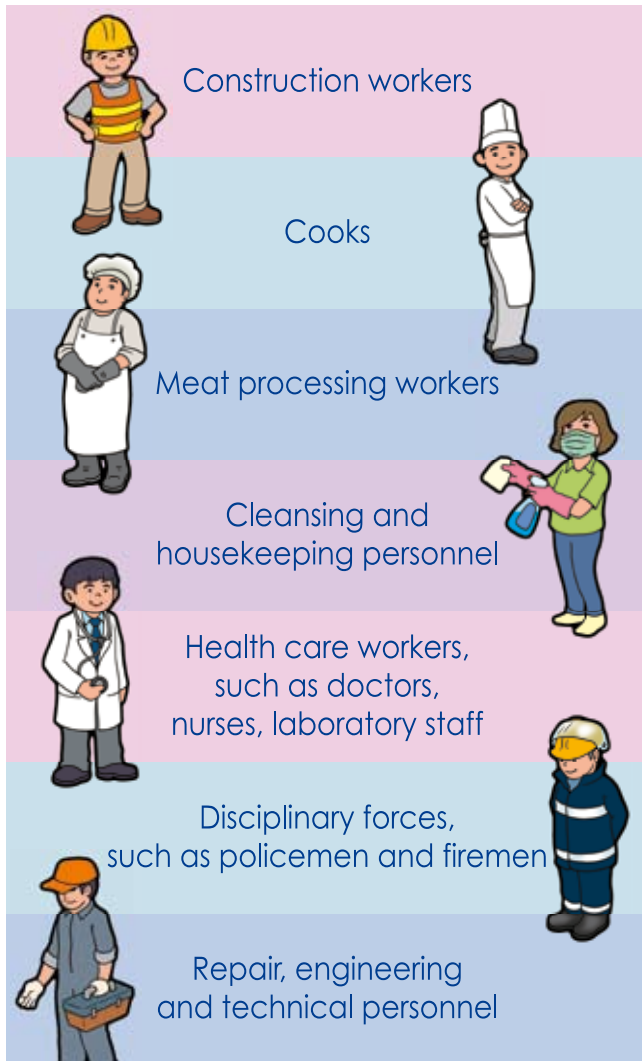
If you have any complaints about unsafe workplaces and practices, please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at 2542 2172.



Skin Injury at Work

Although skin injury at work is common, it is often overlooked. Different work hazards may lead to different degrees of skin injuries. In serious cases, complications can occur, affecting the performance and productivity of the injured workers. Therefore, we should do our best to prevent skin injury at work.

Who should take special precautions against skin injury at work?



Skin injuries may result in:



Wound infection – causing redness, swelling, pain and even pustulation. In severe cases, septicaemia may occur.



Hepatitis B infection – workers may be infected if they are punctured by sharps contaminated by blood or body fluids containing Hepatitis B virus.



Tetanus – the bacteria, *Clostridium tetani*, which are often found in soil, can enter the body through wounds and cause death in severe cases.



Other infections – Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection can be transmitted through skin injuries caused by contaminated sharps. Besides, some bacteria from animals can enter the human body through wounds and cause diseases such as *Streptococcus suis* infection, leptospirosis and brucellosis.

How to prevent?

- Assess the risk of injury at work and formulate necessary preventive measures and guidelines.

- Arrange training on work safety for employees.



- Use appropriate personal protective equipment at work, such as wearing suitable safety shoes in construction sites.

- Develop a system of reporting, investigation, follow-up and analysis of injury cases, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of existing preventive measures and take necessary improvement actions.

