

March 25, 2025 - LeeCARES Training Net: PPE - Gloves

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In the recent past, I have made the argument for always carrying a knife and flashlight as part of the necessary tools we carry every day. Over the weekend I had to loan out gloves to a friend who needed a pair while dealing with thorns. I always have a pair or more around due to the nature of my job, but I forget not everyone thinks like me. So now I will make the case for always having gloves available.

Our hands and fingers are highly susceptible to damage. As we train and deploy equipment, we often encounter situations that can quickly and unexpectedly cause injury. Whether we are setting up an antenna or doing work around our homes, having gloves is just as important as carrying a knife.

We use our hands for everything we do as radio operators. Many tasks require fine dexterity that would be highly impaired by wearing gloves such as making coax connections, starting nuts and bolts, or operating a radio. However, when deploying an antenna mast or setting up our trailer on site, having a pair of gloves is imperative. A simple slip or an unexpected metal burr could cause a painful cut or worse. Gloves can also help prevent blisters while using hand tools, etc.

For most of our uses, simple leather or mechanic style gloves are all we really need. These are the most versatile and will protect your hands through all our activities. Having a few pairs of nitrile gloves on hand is helpful when handling oils, fuel, or other icky (that's a technical term) things.

Speaking from experience, gloves are extremely helpful for working on towers as the metal can be quite rough and ropes can become painful on bare skin when raising and lowering sections (rope burns are not fun). During the trailer workday, I neglected to use gloves while loading the, now falling apart, makeshift Faraday cage and received a few nice scratches from the wire enclosure.

Keep your gloves close at hand. Adding a grommet hole to the cuff of the gloves allows for them to easily be clipped on a carabiner and hung on a belt loop for easy access. A tarp clip is another handy option. Grommet kits are inexpensive and can be found wherever you buy tarps. With leather gloves, be sure to clean them periodically and treat them with your favorite leather treatment and they will last a long time.

Gloves won't make your hands impervious to damage, but they can prevent injuries that can impede your activities. Find the ones best suited for you and keep them within reach.

Just for reference, I like to use the Golden Stag Iron Fencer Glove (207) that I purchased at Goodson-Voight Lumber, and I treat them with Obenauf's Heavy-Duty LP Leather Preservative ordered from Amazon. Amazon links are included.

Golden Stag Iron Fencer Glove (207) <https://a.co/d/0fbxiDJ>

Obenauf's Heavy-Duty LP Leather Preservative <https://a.co/d/avhEd4R>

Grommet kit <https://a.co/d/1sQYWbv>

Tarp clips <https://a.co/d/cSeA4Si>