



**What Would YOU Do? When a Medical Incident Could Mean Losing a Job**

Wade was thrilled to get work as a technician at the new distribution center that opened in the town next to his. He had spent the last three years after high school working a variety of jobs, often requiring long commutes because there were so few employers in his small rural home town.

During new employee orientation his supervisor explained the company's policy on personal protective equipment (PPE). Failure to properly use all PPE was grounds for immediate dismissal. The company issued all the PPE required for the position and provided lockers for the workers to store the equipment when they weren't working.

His second week on the job Wade absent-mindedly put his company-issued gloves in his pocket after clocking out and then forgot to bring them back to work the following day. Because he was already running late and didn't have time to run back home to get them, he quickly fished another pair of gloves out of his truck and went to work. He knew they weren't company-issued but figured it didn't matter.

Shortly before his shift was over he accidentally sliced open his hand while trying to repair a belt unit on a cross-belt sorter. Knowing he wasn't wearing the company-issued gloves he quickly pulled the gloves off and shoved them into his pocket before going to report the accident to his supervisor. After examining the sheared-off piece of metal that caused the injury Wade's boss said he was surprised that it was sharp enough to cut through the top-of-the-line PPE. Knowing that telling the truth could mean potentially losing his job, Wade didn't respond. As he was leaving to go to the nearest outpatient clinic to get the cut stitched up he saw a co-worker who laughed, knowing that Wade wasn't wearing the company-issued gloves. What do you think Wade should do? Why?

**Source:**

"Occupational Safety and Health Standards: Personal Protective Equipment, General Requirements." U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). 2011. Web. 2 August 2014.

"Intellisort® Sortation Solutions." 2011. Intelligrated. Web. 28 July 2014.

