



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #27

It's Just a Cut!

Most of us will shrug off a minor cut as a nuisance and not think much more about it. However, the skin is designed to protect our body from invasion by foreign organisms that can cause the body harm. If this outer defensive barrier has been penetrated, infection can occur. While localized infection can be painful and interfere with regular activities, it's a much more serious matter if blood poisoning develops. Blood poisoning is caused by the spread of bacterial infection in your blood. The best way to avoid blood poisoning is to protect yourself from cuts. Hands are the most frequently injured part of the body. The proper use of gloves will provide good protection in most cases. If you do get cut, recognize that you are at risk and apply the appropriate first-aid treatment. For minor cuts, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water, apply an antiseptic, and cover the wound with a sterile bandage to prevent further contamination. More serious cuts require professional care. Medical attention will also be required if you observe reddish streaks traveling out from the wound site or if you experience shaking chills; a rapid temperature rise; rapid, pounding heart beat; and warm flushed skin. These are a few of the typical symptoms of blood poisoning. As always, prevention is the best cure!

