Supporting Employee Mental Health Post-Injury: Minor Injuries

What employers can do to support workers with **minor injuries**.

Injury Example: A cook cuts their finger, a cashier sprains their ankle, a room attendant with a sore wrist, a grounds keeper scrapes their knee, a ski instructor has a sore shoulder.

Potential Impacts	How to Support
 Reduced confidence in performing job tasks that lead to injury Fear that they will be perceived as less competent 	Ensure the worker's confidence in performing any job tasks that lead to the injury – offer further training if necessary. Approach this topic with empathy as it is easy to accidentally trigger shame by implying the injury was a result of incompetence.
A feeling of shame for having incurred the injury	Reassure the worker that mistakes happen to everybody – maybe share a story about a similar injury you've incurred in the past.
Bullying or harassment from coworkers or guests	Watch out for potential bullying and harassment as a result of injury, and address it proactively before it grows.
 Pride in working through injury as a badge of honor Denying the need for further treatment 	Validate the need for recovery through proper messaging: there is no badge of honor for "toughing it out" through a painful injury, and that "self-care is cool."
Psychological trauma to themselves or coworkers through witnessing injury	Have an empathetic conversation with the injured worker to help them identify the potential impacts of the injury and refer them to additional support if needed. Check-in with witnesses of the injury for the need to debrief and refer to additional support if needed.

Additional Resources

Crisis Lines: 1-800-784-2433 or 9-8-8 Mental Health Services: helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca

Mental Health Support Line: 310-6789 Mental Health Information: heretohelp.bc.ca

Drug and Alcohol Info and Referral: 1-800-663-1441 Free Wellness Program: bouncebackbc.ca





