**Objective: Work safely around thorn bushes.**

**Trainer’s Note**

Workers may have to work near or with thorn bushes. While thorn bushes are not especially dangerous, they can cause injuries if precautions are not taken. For this module:

 • Review the contents of this module with your workers.

 • Discuss important points with your workers.

 • Ask workers what thorn bushes they encounter in the area.

 • Review the important points.

 • Have workers take the True/False quiz to check their learning.

**Background**

Many bushes, shrubs, and scrub trees have thorns. Some examples are rose, multiflora rose, blackberry, and raspberry bushes. If you have to work near or with these plants, be aware that the thorns are sharp. Thorns can cause cuts, lacerations, and scratches to your skin.

**How to Avoid Contact With Thorns**

* Always wear gloves. Leather gloves are best.
* Wear a long-sleeve shirt and long pants. Clothing made of thicker cloth is better.
* Wear work shoes or boots. Do not wear sandals or open-toed shoes.
* If you are cutting bushes, wear eye protection and a safety hard hat.

**If Cuts, Lacerations, or Scratches Occur**

* Try not to get dirt into the scratch or wound. Dirt can cause an infection.
* Clean the wound with rubbing alcohol.
* Apply iodine or an anti-bacterial ointment.
* If the scratch is deep, apply a band-aid or bandage.
* If infection should occur, see a doctor.

**Review These Important Points**

* Be aware that thorns are sharp and can scratch or cut your skin.
* Always wear gloves when you handle thorn bushes.
* Clean cuts and scratches with rubbing alcohol and apply iodine or an anti-bacterial ointment.

**Verbal Quiz**

1. It is not necessary to wear gloves when working with thorn bushes. **T F**

2. If you are cutting bushes, wear eye protection and a safety hard hat. **T F**

3. Clean cuts with rubbing alcohol. **T F**

4. Dirt in a wound can cause an infection. **T F**

5. See a doctor if infection occurs. **T F**

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| Answer Key |
| 1 | F |
| 2 | T |
| 3 | T |
| 4 | T |
| 5 | T |