**(Belay) “Glove-ology”:**

**WHY?** Risk management, control of increased heat and potential injury to belayers hand(s), thus compromising the safety of climber.

PIA protocol for over 20 years. Gross negligence if we do not teach / enforce protocol.

**CAUSES?**
Normal friction as belayer is lowering someone, or takes an unexpected fall/ misstep from climber; some piece of debris is picked up on rope and transferred to hand; etc.

**GLOVE USEFUL SPECS:**
1. **FIT** - not too loose or tight

2. **SUPPLE** - like 2nd but tough skin, thus pliable, in order to do job

3. **REINFORCED PALM** - to take the wear / friction that will occur.

4. **DURABILITY** - gloves need to last

5. **QUICK RECOGNITION** - needs to be color or otherwise quick eye recognition as to L vs R, size, perhaps ownership.

6. **ACCESSIBLE** - having some quick clipped, 1/4" or smaller spring loaded snap to allow glove(s) to be part of the harness gear one takes out regularly or attached to belay device set up as 2nd alternative.

7. **HABITUAL** - needs to be broken in, used frequently to become a habit like anything one wants to be part of a safety skill set.

8. **MATERIAL** - soft but not too soft *leather* is my recommendation.
Synthetics typically melt. Not a good choice.

**BRANDS:**
Wells Lamont
Carhartt; Schmidt

PMI

**WHERE to FIND:**
TRACTOR SUPPLY
AGWAY
RUNNINGS
BIG R
MENARDS (sometimes)

WALMART (sometimes)
Online