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# Title: <br> Motor affordance for grasping a safety handle 

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## Highlights

- Visual priming of hand muscles when viewing a safety handle was tested
- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to assess temporal dynamics of affordance effect
- Rapid engagement of select hand muscles suitable for grasping a safety handle
- Priming hand muscles by viewing a safety handle has reactive balance implications


#### Abstract

Mere observation of objects in our surroundings can potentiate movement, a fact reflected by visually-primed activation of motor cortical networks. This mechanism holds potential value for reactive balance control where recovery actions of the arms or legs must be targeted to a new support base to avoid a fall. The present study was conducted to test if viewing a wall-mounted safety handle - the type of handle commonly used to regain balance - results in activation of motor cortical networks. We hypothesized that the hand area of the primary motor cortex would be facilitated shortly after visual access to a safety handle versus when no handle was visible. Here, we used transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to measure corticospinal excitability in hand muscles directly following access to vision while participants performed a seated reach-grasp task. Vision was controlled using liquid crystal lenses and TMS pulses were time-locked to occur shortly after


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