Safety Talk

Hand/Power Tool Safety



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

Keep the Conversation Going with a Safety Talk Question:

How Can We Maximize Safety When Using Hand and Power Tools on the Job Site?

1. **Important Distinctions: Before reviewing best safety practices, it is crucial to know the specific risks each category presents.**

- **Hand Tools:** Hazards primarily arise from misuse (such as choosing the wrong tool for the job) and inadequate maintenance.
  - **Cuts and Punctures:** Tools in poor condition, such as a dull chisel, are more likely to break the skin or sever tissue.
  - **Impact:** Slipping wrenches or improperly stored heavy tools can cause blunt-force trauma. A heavy tool head (hammer, for example) is more likely to fly off when the handle is loose or splintered.
  - **Debris:** Tools used to strike may send materials flying, especially if the tool head has deteriorated from wear and tear ("mushroomed"). This can cause cuts and punctures. Debris that strikes the eyes can cause permanent blindness.
  - **Strain and Sprain:** Hand tools often require significant repetitive motion at awkward angles. Overexertion can lead to musculoskeletal issues such as carpal tunnel syndrome.
- **Power Tools:** While power tools often reduce the amount of exertion and repetitive motion required when using hand tools, they add mechanical, electrical, and environmental risks.
  - **Trauma:** Exposed blades or sharp teeth can cause severe trauma when they come into direct contact with skin. Entanglement, when the machinery catches clothing or hair, poses the same risk. The same injuries can result from kickback, when a tool suddenly jumps back toward the user, causing a loss of control.
  - **Electrical:** Damaged cords or wet work areas can cause shock or electrocution.
  - **Debris:** Blades, gears, bits and other parts can shatter or send particles flying.
  - Noise/Vibration: Loud noise for extended periods can cause hearing loss, and constant vibration can lead to musculoskeletal issues such as hand-arm vibration syndrome.
  - **Secondary Hazards:** Sometimes a power tool is not the direct cause of injury. A pierced gas or fuel line can release toxic contaminants. A friction spark can ignite flammable materials.

2. **Tool Safety Tips**

- **Training:** The primary best practice for tool safety is training. Never use a tool without adequate knowledge and experience.
- **Selection:** Always ensure that you are using the correct tool for the task and that it is well maintained and in good condition. Never try to modify a tool to perform a task that it was not designed to handle.

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- **Inspection and Maintenance**
  - **Before each use:** Check the tool for cracks, loose parts, worn handles and other damage. If there is any damage, remove the tool from service and report it to a supervisor.
  - After each use: Clean, inspect for issues and perform preventive maintenance. Store tools in secure, designated locations to prevent damage or unauthorized use.
- **Protection**
  - **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Wear all necessary PPE appropriate for the specific task. Eyewear is especially important to protect against debris. Other equipment includes hard hats, gloves, hearing protection, and more.
  - **Machinery:** Before each use, ensure guards are functioning properly and never remove, disable, or bypass them.
- **Order of Operations:** Before starting work, ensure the area is clear and dry with adequate lighting. When possible, use clamps, vises or other devices to secure the material. Unplug or de-energize tools before changing parts or making adjustments.
- **Focus:** Ensure the environment is conducive to concentrating on the task at hand and avoiding distractions. Establish stable footing and maintain a firm grip.

Check Out This Resource: https://www.osha.gov/hand-power-tools/hazards-solutions

Sources:

1. https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/212903
2. https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/208378

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Worker Comments / Feedback:

To be signed by all employees, contract workers, clients and others who participated in the safety talk prior to commencing work.

Signatures:

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