

Pneumatic Tools

Many construction tools are powered by compressed air instead of electricity. These tools are called pneumatic tools. Although they eliminate the hazards created by an electrical current, they still expose the user to potential injuries. The main danger is contact with one of the tool's attachments or with some kind of fastener used with the tool. If pneumatic tools are used on your site, you should remember the following guidelines:

- Wear the necessary personal protective equipment. Protect your eyes, head, and face when working with pneumatic tools.
- Compressed air can create noise hazards. Safeguard your ears from noisy tools and compressors by wearing the appropriate hearing protection.
- Set up screens around your work area to protect nearby co-workers from being struck by flying fragments created by chippers, riveting guns, staplers, or air drills.
- Just like real guns, compressed air guns should never be pointed at anyone. Never "dead end" them against yourself or anyone else. Use a chip guard when compressed air is used for cleaning.
- Pneumatic tools that shoot nails, rivets, staples, or other fasteners and operate at pressures of more than 100 pounds per square inch must be equipped with a safety device that prevents fasteners from being ejected unless the muzzle is pressed against the work surface.
- Always install a safety clip or retainer to prevent attachments (such as the chisel on a chipping hammer) from being ejected during tool operation.
- You should take the same precautions with an air hose as those recommended for electric cords. The air hose is subject to the same kind of damage during use, and it can also present similar tripping hazards.
- Treat hoses with care. Dragging a hose by pulling on the tool puts a lot of strain on the joint between the hose and the coupling. Instead, pull the hose with your hand.
- Make sure the pneumatic tool you're working with is securely fastened to the air hose. A positive connection between the hose and the tool is required, like the pull-down sleeve on many couplings.
- Some air hoses are more than half an inch in diameter. In such cases, a safety excess flow valve must be installed at the source of the air supply to reduce pressure in case of hose failure.
- Never use a pneumatic tool if it leaks air.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Read the user's manual before you use any tool. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations for safe operation and maintenance.

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

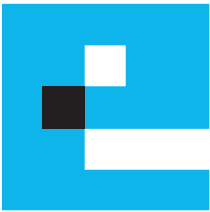
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These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.



Ladder Safety—One Step at a Time

Ladders are perhaps one of the simplest tools we use on a construction site. Although ladders are not complicated tools, caution and care are still required to use them safely. Accidents involving ladders can be caused by improper use or selection. Hazards such as falls, electrical shock, and instability can be prevented with proper planning, and by following safe work practices.

Before you step foot on a ladder:

- Select the right ladder for the job.
- Inspect every ladder before each use.
- Check all rung and step connections.
- Keep aluminum ladders away from electrical power lines.

Setting up a ladder:

- Position the ladder so you can reach your work without losing your balance.
- Do not place ladders on boxes, barrels, buckets, or other unstable bases.
- Never tie ladders together.
- When using a straight or extension ladder to access an elevated surface, make sure the ladder extends at least 3 feet above the point of support.
- Always secure straight and extension ladders at the top.
- Remember the 4-to-1 ratio when setting up a straight ladder: set the base of the ladder back from the top support a distance of one fourth the height of the top support.

- Check to make sure all locks on extension ladders are properly engaged.

When climbing a ladder:

- Allow only one person at a time on any ladder.
- Keep your hands free of tools or materials so that you can grip the rungs properly, whether you're going up or down.
- Face the ladder as you climb.
- Maintain three points of contact with the ladder: one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot.
- Keep your body centered between the side rails of the ladder; never reach too far to one side or the other.
- Never stand on the top 2 steps of any ladder.
- Never run up or down a ladder.
- Do not move, shift, or extend ladders while in use.

Care and maintenance:

- Keep ladders free from oil, grease, mud, snow, ice, and other slipping hazards.
- Remove broken or defective ladders from service immediately and tag them "Do Not Use."

SAFETY REMINDER

A rule of thumb for using ladders: Always keep your belt buckle between the rails; if you cannot reach from there, you need to move the ladder.

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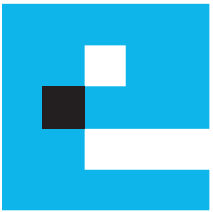
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Lacerations, Contusions, and Abrasions

Small cuts and scrapes usually don't demand a visit to a doctor's office or the emergency room, but proper care is essential to keep the wound from getting infected or causing other complications.

With any injury, it's important to act promptly by examining the person who has been hurt. If you're the only one around, or the first to find an injured person, look for the obvious: breathing, broken bones, and bleeding. For serious injuries, call for medical help immediately. **When minor cuts and scrapes occur, follow these first-aid procedures:**

- Apply pressure to the cut with a clean dressing or cloth to stop the bleeding.
- Cleanse the injured area with soap and water to remove harmful bacteria.
- Bandage the injury with a non-stick dressing. Make sure the bandage holds the dressing in place with a bit of pressure to help control any bleeding.

For severe bleeding, additional steps may be needed:

- Protect yourself from exposure to HIV and hepatitis by wearing latex or vinyl gloves when providing first aid to an injured co-worker.
- Apply direct pressure with the palm of the hand over the entire area of the wound using a thick pad of sterile gauze. Do not remove a dressing after placing it on the wound because bleeding may start again. If a dressing becomes soaked in blood, apply another dressing on top of it.

- Elevate a severely bleeding open wound on the head, neck, arm, or leg only if there is no evidence of a fracture. Raise the wound above the level of the victim's heart.
- Do not use a tourniquet. Tourniquets are rarely needed and should only be used as a last resort to save a life when all other methods have failed.
- Always get professional medical attention for injuries that cause severe bleeding.

If you get hurt on the job, get proper medical attention. Get medical treatment promptly from the on-site medical person or first-aider, go to an urgent care facility, or call 911. Always report injuries to your supervisor.

If you are injured at home, you may need to visit your family doctor or a nearby hospital emergency room. Always follow the instructions given to you by medical personnel. If your doctor or site medic wants you to change your wound dressing twice a day, be sure to do it. Seek additional treatment if a minor laceration or contusion becomes infected; if the wound is hot, red, or swollen; or if you develop a fever. Otherwise, a minor cut can turn into a major medical event.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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You can't help someone in need if you don't have the proper supplies. Make sure you have a fully stocked first-aid kit nearby at work and somewhere in your home.

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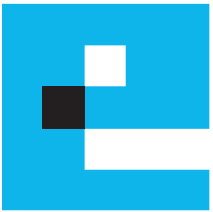
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Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry

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You Are the Sharpest Tool in the Box

Take a moment to think about the tools in your tool belt, your gang box, your tool bag, or your site's tool room. Are there any sharp tools in there? Of course. The nature of your work requires that you handle, carry, and use sharp tools every day. They may be part of your everyday activities, but you shouldn't ever disregard the dangers and hazards of the tools of your trade.

Many hand tools used in construction are sharp. Screwdrivers, handsaws, pickaxes, hand punches, spud wrenches, box-cutters, and razor blades are just a few. Power tools that have sharp edges or points include chainsaws, drills, circular saws, edgers, nail guns, pavement breakers, and pole saws.

One of the best ways to prevent injuries caused by sharp tools is by learning to use the tool properly. Nobody can be an expert at using every tool made today. If you don't know how to use a tool, don't be afraid to ask someone who does. And if you see a co-worker using a tool incorrectly, stop him and show him how to use it correctly before someone gets hurt.

When selecting a sharp tool to use, make sure you choose the right tool for the job. Never "make do" because you're too busy—or lazy—to get the proper tool. Keep your work area and storage areas neat and orderly so you can find the tool you need when you need it.

When using a cutting tool, always cut away from yourself.

Wear eye protection if there's a chance that you'll create sparks or flying fragments. Wear gloves to add a layer of protection to your hands. Never use excessive pressure or force on any tool.

Be mindful when carrying or handling sharp tools. If you carry tools in your hands, keep sharp or cutting edges covered and hold them away from you. Carrying tools in your pockets is dangerous, especially if the tools are sharp or pointed. If you fall or just squat down, you might find that tool stuck in your side, leg, or back. Instead, carry tools in a tool kit, tool box, or tool belt.

At the beginning of this safety meeting we said that you are the sharpest tool in the box. You could be the most dangerous if you don't handle tools correctly. Anytime you carry, handle, or use a sharp tool you should work safely and cautiously to prevent injuries. Never engage in horseplay or jokes in any way when holding a tool. One slip of the hand could make your co-worker lose an eye or finger, or suffer a deadly injury. If your buddy wants to borrow one of your tools, hand it to him. Don't throw it. The human body was not meant to endure the sharp and pointy edges of tools.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Never deactivate or wedge back a tool guard. Guards are in place to protect your safety and your life.

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