

Hand and Power Tools

Imagine that when you are striking a nail with a hammer, part of the hammer's handle breaks off and hits you in the eye. How about breaking the bones in your hand when it is crushed by a press that you were attempting to adjust with slippery pliers instead of a wrench?

Keep Safety in Mind

Hand and power tools are such a common part of the job that we often take them for granted. However, their use can be extremely hazardous if the right safety procedures are not followed. To keep yourself safe, follow these basic rules

Here are the top 5 things you need to know about hand and power tools:

1. Tools in good condition

If a wooden handle on a tool is loose, splintered or cracked, the head can fly off. If the jaws of a wrench are sprung, the wrench can slip. If impact tools such as chisels, wedges or drift pins have mushroomed heads, they can shatter on impact.

2. Right tool for the job

If a chisel is used as a screwdriver, there is a danger of the tip flying off.

Each job calls for a specific tool. Never deviate.

3. Inspect each tool

Examine each tool for damage before using it and never use damaged tools. Look for damaged wires and connections. Tools used for cutting edges must be sharp. Dull tools can be more hazardous as you must press harder.

4. Operate tools

- Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- When using sharp tools, direct the tools away from aisle areas and away from other employees working close to you.
- Use the right PPE.

5. Store properly

- Put tools away when you are done using them.
- Do not throw tools to another employee.
- Use a bucket to lift or lower tools.
- Store tools out of the way and in a clean environment.

Discussion

- 1. When was the last time you really inspected your tools? What was the outcome of the inspection? Good or bad?**
- 2. Can anyone share?**

