
A Cooperative Effort

The Kahnawake Occupational Safety and Health Office along with Mohawk Self Insurance are working closely to reduce workplace injuries. Workplace injuries cost employers, employees, insurance providers and families thousands of dollars each year. By providing the tools through promoting safety, providing training and or training materials and continued safety awareness, together we can reduce workplace injuries.



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“Safety” Is No Accident



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Hand and Power Tools



Use the Right Tool for the Job

Basic Safety for Hand and power Tools

Employees who use hand and power tools should be trained in the proper use of the tools they will use. Workers should be able to recognize the hazards associated with the different types of tools and the safety precautions necessary to prevent an accident or injury. There are five basic safety rules which can help prevent hand and power tool hazards.

- Operate tools according to manufacturers' instructions.
- Always use the proper personal protective equipment.
- Examine each tool for damage before use and do not use damaged tools.
- Use the right tool for the job.
- Keep all tools in good condition and on a regular maintenance schedule.



Hand Tools

There are many different types of hand tools. Hand tools are manually operated tools such as scissors, wrenches, screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, saws and so on. Misusing hand tools and improper maintenance are the biggest cause of injuries.

Tools such as saw blades, knives and scissors must be sharp and free of cracks or chips. Dull blades create more of a hazard than sharp ones.

Using a screwdriver as a chisel, or improperly maintained wedges, pins and chisels with mushroomed heads can cause flying fragments.

Cracked or splintered wooden handles can cause the head of an axe or hammer to fly off, striking the user or other employees.

Wrenches with jaws that are sprung can slip causing injury. Don't use a wrench that is sprung to the point where slippage occurs.

Metal hand tools may produce sparks when struck such as a chisel and hammer. If a hazard of ignition is present, spark-resistant tools should be used.

Power Tools

Electric, pneumatic, hydraulic, powder-actuated and liquid fuel are types of power tools. Always use tools according to manufacturers instructions and employers must ensure employees are trained on the safe use of tools which they will use. The following are some general precautions workers should observe to prevent hazards and injuries.

Walking working surfaces must be kept clean and dry to prevent slipping and tripping hazards.

Keep cords and hoses away from heat, sharp edges and oil.

Never remove guards on tools.

Disconnect tools when "not in use" or when changing blades or other parts.

Shut off tool and allow to cool before refueling.

Never carry or pull tools by the cord or hose.

When operating power tools make sure material is secured with clamps or a vise and maintain good footing.

Loose clothing, jewelry or ties can become caught in moving parts. Wear proper clothing and remove jewelry.

To avoid accidental starting of tool, never walk with finger on switch button of a plugged in tool.

Inspect your tools prior to using them and remove all damaged tools from service and tag them "DO NOT USE".

If your not sure if a tool is safe to use, notify your supervisor immediately who will assist you.

