

AT THE END OF THE WORKDAY, EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFE.

# Becoming Complacent Around Hand & Power Tools

## Toolbox Talk



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**H**and and power tools have made completing tasks easier, faster, and less strenuous on the body. They have allowed for many advancements in the construction industry. But because tools are so common, people tend to let down their guard when they are working with them and around them.

It is easy to get over-comfortable and bypass safety processes. A good way to eliminate many of the hazards with tools is

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**1-Keep Tools in Good Condition:** This is as simple as the phrase "if you take care of it, it will take care of you." By properly storing and performing maintenance as required and suggested by the manufacturer, your tools will operate at a high level for a longer time. You will also have to replace your tools less frequently.

**2-Use the Right Tool for the Job:** It is not uncommon to see a pair of pliers, or any tool for that matter, become a hammer real quick if something needs pounded down and a hammer is not within arm's reach. Using tools that were not designed for that type of impact will damage them, and potentially injure you.

**3-Inspect Each Tool Before Use:** This does not need to be a long process, just take the time to make sure there are no cracks, breaks, bends, or other damage to the tool that could compromise it. If you find such damage, do not use that tool and get a different one. Be sure to follow your company's lockout/tagout program so no one else accidentally uses the damaged tool.

**4-Operate the Tool Correctly:** Use the tool the way the manufacturer intended it to be used. If you have any questions about the tool, go to the operators' manual that came with it. You will find good information about it and how it was intended to be used. This will prevent accidents and injuries from happening.

**5-Use PPE:** Make sure you always have on the proper PPE for the task at hand. Utilizing PPE properly can save you from serious injuries, and even death. Make sure your PPE is in good condition and replace it if it is not.

Hand and power tools are incredibly useful and allow work to be completed more efficiently. Improvements in safety features have made them better than ever, but that does not mean you do not have to give your full attention to them while using them. Follow these five basic steps to avoid injuries and accidents with tools.

### Incident Profile:

A 34-year-old man needed to cut a down a sheet of plywood. He had left his circular saw in his truck, which was on the other side of the building. Instead getting it, he decided to pull the guard off of his angle grinder and attach a spare circular saw blade he had in his tool bag since the grinder and blade had similar diameters for attaching blades or wheels.

After attaching the blade, he tested it out and thought everything seemed good enough to make the cuts. He held the plywood with his left hand and began running the grinder with his right. As the blade started cutting into the wood, it kicked down and to the left. The blade cut his thumb in half and entered his thigh.

Someone nearby heard him scream and called 911. Emergency services arrived shortly after the call and controlled the bleeding. He survived but has residual limitations.

### Talking Points:

1. Why do we use tools incorrectly?
2. What PPE should we be using when working with hand and power tools?
3. What are the procedures if a tool is found to be in poor condition?

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor Name/Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Translator Name/Signature:**

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