SAFETY BULLETIN #1

January 12, 2026

Hand & Power Tool Hazards

Yearly, there are over 960,000 injuries caused by power tools. And, according to OSHA, the most common injuries when using power tools are electric shock, eye injuries, puncture wounds, crushing injuries, and amputations. When used correctly and with the proper safety measures, you can significantly reduce and/or eliminate the chance of an accident.



Why Accidents Happen:

- ★ Improperly worn or no PPE
- ★ Contact with moving blades or bits (saws, drills).
- ★ Eye Injuries from flying debris (wood chips, metal shards) from grinders, saws, or sanders.
- ★ Electrocution & Burns from damaged cords, wet conditions, or faulty grounding.
- ★ Hearing Loss from prolonged exposure to loud noises (jackhammers, saws).
- ★ Respiratory Problems from inhaling concrete sawing dust, exhausts
- ★ Tools left in walkways or unstable areas (tops of ladders, shelves, heavy equipment)
- ★ Loose clothing, jewelry, or long hair (including beards) caught in moving parts
- ★ Not unplugging or removing batteries prior to replacing parts/blades

Preventative Actions:

- ★ Wear proper PPE - use safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, mask, safety shoes
- ★ Know how to use tools safely
- ★ Ensure each tool's manufacturer's safety devices are attached - guards, shields, safety switches
- ★ Inspect for defective tools - poor design, manufacturing issues, tools left out in weather, damaged cords
- ★ Improper Maintenance - check belts & blades; worn-out or broken equipment placed out of service
- ★ Misuse and Excess Force - Using the wrong tool for the job or using it incorrectly
- ★ Post use - Turn off and unplug tools, return them to job trailer or shop

Prevention Discussion Points:

- ★ What power and hand tools do we use on our site?
  - What safety measures are needed when using that tool? What PPE should be worn?
- ★ When was the last time the power tools and extension cords were checked for damage?
- ★ What do we do with damaged power tools?
  - Whose responsibility is it to ensure the tool is replaced or repaired?