

## BE A PRO WITH YOUR EQUIPMENT

Hazards are intensified when equipment is allowed to deteriorate. A hand tool that needs repair could mean a serious injury - or worse.

### ELECTRIC POWERED TOOLS

The hazard of electrocution cannot be ignored. Defective or damaged tools should be reported to your supervisors immediately.

Do you understand the importance of the three-wire power cord? Removing the grounding wire (cutting of the third prong on the plug) is not only illegal, but is also downright hazardous. An exception is approved double-insulated tools, which require special testing and inspection procedures.

Are you a pro with your equipment? Are the constant-pressure switches on your tools fully operational? Constant-pressure switches are required on circular and chain saws: lock-on controls are prohibited.

Drills, tappers and grinders with wheels that are greater than two inches in diameter are required to have constant-pressure switches: lock-on controls are optional. Some workers remove the lock-on controls from drills to prevent spinning of the body if the drill bit seizes.

Do you use power cords to hoist or lower tools? Are the guards on your tools in good condition and securely in place? Do you use socket retainers on impact wrenches?

### AIR POWERED TOOLS

Do you know that tool lubricants that are used in the presence of piped oxygen will explode? If piped oxygen outlets are used in the workplace, provisions should be made to prevent the accidental connection of an air hose.

Do you use tool retainers on equipment where tool may eject? Do you check spindle speeds on grinders before wheels are installed? The maximum operating speed is marked on the wheel. Check the wheel before use and discard any wheel that has been dropped.

Are the guards and safety devices on your tools in good condition and securely in place? Are hose connectors and fittings designed for the pressure and service for which you use them or are makeshift parts being used? Fittings can prevent accidental disconnection.

### EXPLOSIVE ACTUATED FASTENING TOOLS

Have you been trained in the operation and use of powder-actuated tools? Only workers who have received training are permitted to use these tools.

Do you store these tools and powder charges in a locked area? Do you know what to do in case of a misfire? Do you ever leave these tools unattended, such as during lunch or breaks?

In spite of numerous safety features that are built into powder-actuated tools, they are not foolproof. Fatal accidents have been caused by horseplay and by failing to make sure that easily penetrated material, such as wall board, is backed by a heavier material. Fasteners passing through lighter material could become flying missiles. Remember, eye protection is required.

Be a pro with your equipment and remember - each power tool has its own special hazards.

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