

Description

Power and hand tools are useful part of our daily lives regardless of industry. Though they are extremely helpful, they can also be very hazardous when used or maintained improperly. Employees are always expected to use handed power tools only as they are intended

Dangers

- Lacerations
- Amputations
- Fractures
- Puncture wounds
- Death

Examples

- A toe is crushed by a hammer falling on someone's foot without proper PPE
- A finger is crushed while operating a hammer without caution
- A screwdriver being used as a chisel breaks and cuts the user
- Hearing is damaged from prolonged exposure to power tool noise without PPE
- A finger is cut off from using a circular saw with a malfunctioning guard
- An improperly grounded tool shocks it's operator
- A worker trips on the wires of his coworker's power tools
- A worker is cut by a hand grinder without a guard

Prevention

Hand Tools:

- Handles should be free of cracks, splinters, and kept tight in the tool
- Saw blades, chisels, drill bits and punches should be kept in sharp condition
- Do not use screwdrivers as chisels
- Do not strike tools that are not designed for that purpose
- Do not use chisels, punches or wedges that have "mushroom heads"
- Always wear proper PPE, such as steel toe boots, gloves and goggles, face shields when using hand or power tools

Power Tools:

- All power tools should be inspected before use
- Guards are necessary on any tools designed to accommodate them
- Power tools should have ground cords, and/or double insulation
- Do not hoist tools by their cords
- Before plugging in, verify that the power on tool is off
- Cords should never become tripping hazards

