



## TOOLBOX TALK #22

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 22

### POWER TOOLS

One of the great things about our career in construction is that we get to use power tools every day. Think about it! People love to use power tools. Remember Tim The Tool Man Taylor, and "oooh, oooh, oooh"? But, for us, these tools are part of our craft and we don't use them for fun.

Power tools are another example of items that we take for granted and can forget the potential for injury they hold. Power tools are among the unanticipated ways people get hurt in our line of work. There are a few things to think about as you hit the job site this week. Power tools, as with all tools, should be used for the purpose they are intended.

Don't take shortcuts by using a power tool to accomplish something more quickly or easily when another tool is appropriate, even if it means you have to get up and walk a few steps to get the right tool. Do not use tools that are damaged or worn. Trying to force your tools beyond their means can cause unintended consequences.

Store electrical tools properly. Moisture, for instance, can create electrocution hazards. If a tool has been left out in the weather, we don't plug them in and check to see if they are in good working condition. It's better if we put them in a safe place at the end of the day, but we don't risk our lives if we forget to do that. Do not lift power tools by their extension cords. This is not only bad for the equipment, but also poses a hazard if the connection is loose and the tool falls from one level to another.

Protective devices and guards must always be kept in place. If you notice any defects or damage to the tools themselves or to the protective guards, the tool should be tagged and reported. We will repair or replace the defective tool. As a final note, no one should ever use a tool without the proper training. Don't hesitate to bring it to our attention if you find yourself in this position. We won't look down on you. We'll train you. Then, it you'll be able to work with the tool.

Facilitator Notes: Use a tool as a visual aid, preferably one less common than a simple power drill. Discuss its proper usage, and talk about its potential for injury. Reinforce the principle that it only takes one miscue for a power tool to cause harm and show how that might happen. Ask for other examples from your crew and encourage your team members to share their own knowledge with others.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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List additional attendees on back of sheet