



## TOOLBOX TALK #9

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 9

### TOOLS

We rely on tools for our livelihood. Almost everything we do requires the use of tools. These tools can be large or small, manual or power, hand held or manual. Tools represent another area in which our familiarity can lead to overconfidence.

Many of the common tools we use have sharp objects. Drills, screwdrivers, screws and chisels are examples of items that are intended to help us puncture things – to make holes. It goes without saying that if we can make holes in metal, we can make holes in people as well. Tools should be used only for the purpose they are made for. A screwdriver and a chisel are two different tools, made for two different purposes. Never use tools for unintended purposes as a shortcut. Shortcuts cause injuries.

Use tools with caution, regardless of how many years you have been using them. It only takes one mishap to cause an injury. Watch out for those around you, and make sure they know of your presence, when working with tools that can harm others beyond the person using them. Some tools can also cause sparks, so be certain there are no flammable or combustible materials in your work area when you are using them. Never hurry when using tools. A drill being used by a worker in a rush can turn a simple screw into a projectile.

If you are using electrical tools, follow all safety precautions. Be especially mindful of extension cords. They are not just an electrical hazard but also a trip and fall hazard. Use the shortest possible cord appropriate for the tool you are using.

Wear proper personal protective equipment. Eye protection, ear protection, gloves, face shields and other items are intended to protect us and can prevent a serious injury. Remember, we have to make our job site safe. There is a lot going on out here and it only takes one act of carelessness to hurt someone. Your tools are all around you and we can't do our jobs without them. Let's work together to make sure we can continue to do our jobs with them.

**Facilitator Notes:** Select a person and ask him to demonstrate how he might perform some basic task without using the thumb of his strong hand. Then ask if anyone has ever hit his thumb with a hammer. Emphasize that even non-life threatening injuries to which crew members are exposed can put someone out of commission for days, weeks or even months. Use other examples. Ask crew members to volunteer exposures related to their tools.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List additional attendees on back of sheet