

## **Toolbox Talk # 7.09 – Power Tools**

There's no doubt, power tools enable us to be more efficient and productive. Unfortunately, the power and efficiency also can pose serious risk of injury or death. Too often, tragedy occurs before steps are taken to search out and avoid or eliminate tool-related hazards.

The following general precautions should be observed by users of all power tools:

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits, and cutters.
- Keep all observers at a safe distance from the work area.
- Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. Don't put your finger on the switch while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Keep good footing and maintain good balance. This is another reason to keep your work area free from excess debris.
- Wear appropriate clothes. Loose clothing or jewelry can get caught in moving parts.
- Damaged portable electric tools shall be removed and tagged "Do Not Use." Ask your supervisor for approved company procedures for tagging broken equipment.
- Use proper machine guards where required to protect from hazardous moving parts. Never remove a guard from a power tool.
- Make sure safety switches requiring momentary contact for "on-off" control are in working order and not over-ridden on the tools they should be on (such as drills, tappers, fastener drivers, horizontal, vertical and angle grinders with wheels larger than two inches in diameter, disc sanders, belt sanders, reciprocating saws, saber saws, and other similar equipment).
- Make sure other hand-held powered tools such as circular saws, chain saws, and percussion tools without positive accessory holding means, are equipped with a constant pressure switch that will shut off the power when the pressure is released.
- Be aware of the shock and burn hazards of electric tools, and protect yourself against them.
- Always wear the proper personal protective equipment for the work being performed.

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Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

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### Attendees:

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