

8 - Portable Power Tools: Safety Training

EH&S – MGA

Goals: This safety session should teach you to:

- A. Understand the hazards of portable power tools.
- B. Know how to work safely with portable power tools.

OSHA Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.242

1. Ignoring Safety With Portable Power Tools Can Cause Injuries

- A. Injuries may include:
 - 1. Contact with points of operation, such as saw blades
 - 2. Electrical shock, fire, or electrocution
 - 3. Eye injuries from flying chips, dust, or shavings
 - 4. Dropping a tool on a body part or straining too hard to lift a heavy tool

2. Tool Design Provides Some Protections

- A. Leave all guards in place. OSHA requires guards for tools like circular saws and belt sanders.
- B. Use instant-off switches that keep the tool running only when you're using it.
- C. Take your finger off the switch when you carry a plugged-in tool.

3. Use the Right Tool for the Job

- A. Match the tool and its capacity to the work task.
- B. Check the manufacturer's manual for tool functions and limitations.

4. Use Only Tools That Are in Good Working Order

- A. Inspect tools before use to make sure they're in working order, with no missing parts.
- B. Keep tools sharp, clean, and in good condition.

5. Practice Electrical Safety

- A. Check that tool cords have good insulation; if not, don't use the tool.
- B. Protect the cords.
 - 1. Keep cords away from sharp edges, heat, or anything that could cause damage.
 - 2. Don't carry the tool by its cord or yank the cord from an outlet.
- C. Match plugs and outlets.
- D. Keep tools away from flammable liquids or waste; use non-sparking tools when necessary.
- E. Don't handle tools with wet hands or use tools in wet areas; water can make you an electrical conductor.
- F. Turn off the tool and the power source before adjusting or fixing the tool.

6. Use Personal Protective Equipment

- A. Wear safety goggles; and, if you're creating a lot of dust, wear a respirator suitable for the hazard.
- B. Wear safety toed shoes.
- C. Don't wear loose clothes, loose hair, gloves, or jewelry that could get caught in the point of operation.

7. Use Tools Safely

- A. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- B. Keep moving parts and sharp edges away from your body.
- C. Use a vise or clamps to secure materials, so both hands can operate the tool.
- D. Turn off a tool before you put it down.

8. Practice Good Housekeeping

- A. Keep cords off the floor, so they don't become tripping hazards.
- B. Keep the work area clean; place combustible trash in closed containers.
- C. Store power tools properly when not in use.
- D. Don't leave a tool where it could be turned on accidentally or fall on someone.

Summation: Don't Treat Power Tools As Toys

Practice all aspects of machine and electrical safety to prevent injuries.