

# WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

**Sharp Tool Edges:** Yikes - a Box Cutter with the blade open! Could be reaching in to find something in the bottom - and coming out with a badly cut hand.

**Frayed Power Cords:** Oops, the drill's power cord pulled loose from the housing. In too much in a hurry to fix it--but an electrical shock might slow us down!

**Scratched Safety Glasses:** Someone just threw them in with all of the other junk. The lenses are all scratched and dirty. Probably can't see a thing with them...probably won't wear them. Probably taking a big risk!

**Dirty Respirator:** Looks like this spare respirator wasn't put in it's protective container. It's covered with some kind of white powdery stuff...stinks, and the filters are all crushed. I was going to use that today because I left mine at home. S'pose it'll do?

**Misused Tools:** I see a couple of screw drivers with the handles and ends all beat up. Looks like someone has been using them as chisels. Could I remove screws with these today without busting my knuckles?

**Damaged Head Protection:** Several of the hard hats here have torn suspension systems, and one hat is slightly cracked. Who wants to use these today? Someone with a really hard head?

**Ruined Footwear:** Yesterday I was in a hurry and I just threw my rubber boots in the box. Someone else threw a bunch of sharp stuff on top of them and they are all cut up. Looks like I'll have wet feet when I start working in that open trench today.

Sharp Wire, Rusty Nails, Cracked Tools...? Any of these in your tool box? If you choose to use a broken tool, or piece of safety equipment that doesn't provide adequate protection - you might not be at work tomorrow. You might be convalescing at home or in the hospital. Or worse yet, you may contribute to the injury of one of your fellow workers.

Do you want to carry *that burden* today? Why not clean it up? If you find that the box is a mess, the tools are in terrible shape, or "I wouldn't wear *that*," then take a few moments and get things right. Red tag defective tools or turn them in for repair to your supervisor. Replace broken or unusable safety equipment.

Make your tool box a safe one. Let it reflect that professional attitude you take pride in.

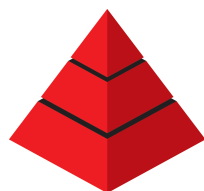
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## EMPLOYEE NAMES


**SUPERINTENDENT'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_



**MCAA**

MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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# USING GRINDERS

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

A chunk of broken grinder disk smashed a worker's faceshield and hit him in the forehead, causing a fatal head injury.

The employee at a metal castings plant had been using an angle grinder to remove slag from metal cast for use as forklift counterweights. He installed a cutoff saw disk on the angle grinder to cut grooves into the slag. He then switched to an air chisel and another grinder to chip and grind away the remaining slag. He repeated this process a number of times during his shift as he cleaned up the newly-cast counterweights.

About 10 hours into the shift, the grinder disk broke and a piece flew into his face. A co-worker heard an unusual sound and came to investigate. He found the victim lying on the ground and bleeding heavily. Emergency medics were not able to revive him, and a medical examiner pronounced him dead at the scene.

This fatality was caused by incorrect use of the angle grinder. The tool was missing a safeguard. The cutoff saw disk installed on it was 4.13 inches (105 millimeters) larger in diameter than the size recommended by the manufacturer, and the ring size was too large for the shaft of the grinder.

Are you using the right tool for the job? Today, check to ensure your tools are in good repair and that the correct accessories are being used with them. This employee thought it wouldn't happen to him. That's what all injured people think, yet it happens day after day!

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# POWER SAWS

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

Know your power saw - read the owner's manual carefully - learn the applications and limitations, as well as the specific potential hazards peculiar to the tool. Ground all tools, unless they are double insulated. If the tool is equipped with a three-prong plug, it should be plugged into a three-hole receptacle. Never remove the third prong.

Keep guards in place and in working order. Guards are there for your protection. Never bypass or remove a guard or any other safety device on your power saw.

Avoid dangerous environments and don't use the saw in wet locations. Make sure you have adequate light to work-in.

Safety and efficiency go hand in hand. A power saw in good condition, with a sharp blade, is not only safer but does a fast, and better job. Choose the right saw for the work you're doing - if in doubt, check with your supervisor.

If you're using a table saw, make sure the saw and motor frame are properly grounded. Keep your body out of line with the masonry being sawed. Use a brush to remove scrap from the table - not your hands.

Shut off the power while adjusting the saw hood or gauge. Lock power controls in the off position (and where possible, unplug the electric cord) before changing saw blades. Be sure there is no play in the arbor.

As with any other operation, get help when sawing long material. Always keep the area around the saw free of loose material that can cause tripping.

Wear proper apparel - no loose clothing or jewelry to get caught in moving parts. Wear suitable eye protection when using power saws. Safety glasses are a must - a stray chip of masonry can cause injury or even the loss of an eye.

Finally, never force a power saw - always use the right size tool for the job. Don't abuse the cord - never carry the saw by the cord or yank it to disconnect from the receptacle. Avoid accidental starting - don't carry a plugged in power saw with your finger on the switch.

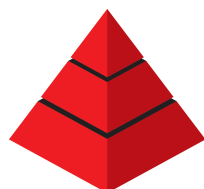
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# GRINDING WHEELS

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

Portable abrasive wheels have most of the hazards of the wheels mounted on fixed stands. The fact that they're portable makes them more hazardous in some ways. They have to take lots of punishment because they get banged around and dropped. Unless the wheel has already stopped before it's dropped, it's apt to jump around some and that's not so good. If portable wheels are properly mounted and used right, you won't get hurt, but if you misuse them, you may get hurt.

The biggest danger is that the wheel may explode. It's probably running at 2,000 to 3,000 rpm's, and if you bang it into something or give it a good blow it's apt to let go. Don't forget that those chunks from an exploding wheel are plenty hard and have sharp corners. They can crack your skull and tear your flesh.

Overspeed can explode a wheel, too, but you can hardly overspeed a motor-driven wheel unless you mount an oversized wheel on the grinder, for instance, put an 8-inch wheel on in place of a 4-inch one. You'd get twice the rim speed that way, and the wheel would probably let go. Of course, you'd have to take the guard off to put the 8-incher on, and that would be a fool thing to do. It's been done though.

You never should use a portable grinder on any ordinary grinding job without a guard. The guard should cover at least half the wheel. See that it's secure and set to give you the best possible protection if the wheel should let go. Always handle the grinder and yourself to keep the guard between your face and the wheel. That can mean the difference between getting a chunk of wheel in the face and merely hearing it zip past you. The guard will turn a lot of the dust and sparks away from you, too. Without a guard you'd eat plenty of it.

Suppose we run through the safe way to do a job with a portable grinder. First, check the tool over carefully. Is the cord in good condition? Is the guard on tight? Are the washers full size? Does the trigger work right? Does it cut off the power when you take your finger off? Does the wheel run smoothly and without vibration? If the answer to each of these is yes, you're ready to get on with the job. Or are you? How about your goggles? Safety shoes, too? You shouldn't drop that grinder, but you might, and a grinder dropped on your toes would make them plenty sore for a while.

Next, check the area around the job. If there's anything loose underfoot, pick it up. If there's anything you can't pick up that you might trip over - like a pipe - notice where it is and keep clear of it. Then decide where you want to run the extension cord. You don't want anyone to trip over it or interfere with it, and you don't want to get your feet tangled in it. The record shows that an

extension cord which isn't safely out of the way is practically a sure-fire device for causing injury. If the cord isn't long enough to run where it's safe, get another and hook it up. Don't take chances with that kind of trouble.

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# DON'T TAKE HAND TOOLS FOR GRANTED

## SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

Too many people do so, both at home and at work. Household jobs usually are light. So you sometimes can get away with using tools improperly or substituting one tool for another. Our work, however, makes rugged demands on tools. If we misuse a tool, or use one that's wrong for the job or in poor condition, it can result in injury or spoiled work.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

Would you use an axe to drive nails? Obviously not. You'd use a claw hammer. It's the less obvious misuse of tools that gives us the most trouble, like using a screwdriver or a file as pry bar. Trouble also comes from trying to get by with a tool that's not the right size for the job. A common mistake is using a wrench that's the wrong size for the nut, or one with a handle that's too short. This can result in scraped knuckles or a broken wrench. Don't take chances. Get the right tool, even if it takes you a few minutes longer. You'll probably save yourself lost time and pay.

### USE ONLY TOOLS IN GOOD CONDITION

Sometimes the hammer whose head comes off is less dangerous than the one whose head just wiggles a little. In the first case, we know the hammer is dangerous and fix it. In the second case, we never know when the head will twist enough to glance off the work, or just fly off. Tools in proper condition have handles and heads that are sound and securely fitted; cutting edges that are sharp and true. It's usually the dull tool that hurts you. Tools should be kept free of dirt and grease. If a tool doesn't meet these qualifications, don't use it. Otherwise, you're asking for trouble.

### USE TOOLS PROPERLY

Very few of us are experts when it comes to using every tool made. If you don't know how to use a tool, don't be afraid to ask someone who does. Here are a few tips for using tools properly: 1. Pull a wrench. Don't push. 2. Use the full handle of the hammer. If you choke up on it, you'll lose control. 3. Always cut away from yourself. 4. Be sure to wear eye protection if there's any chance of chips or flying particles. 5. Don't use a file without a handle. 6. Don't use a chisel or screwdriver as a pry bar.

### CARRY AND STORE TOOLS SAFELY

If you carry tools in your hands, keep sharp or cutting edges covered and hold them away from you. Use a tool box or belt when you carry a lot of tools. Don't stuff them in your pockets. Keep the tool box orderly so you can easily find the tool you need without getting cut or gouged. If your buddy wants to borrow one of your tools, hand it to him; don't toss it.

Hand tool safety depends on the right tool for the job - in proper condition - used correctly -and carried and stored safely.

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