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## Power & Hand Tool Injuries Training

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**Division** -- Missoula

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**Job Name** -- RML

**Foreman** -- John Portrey

**Attendance** -- John Portrey, Chris Jenkins

### Comments:

We rely on a variety of hand and power tools like **caulking guns, drills, staple tackers, banders, knives, pin welders, Hilti guns**, and more. These tools make our work faster and easier:but when they're used carelessly, damaged, or without PPE, they can cause serious and sometimes permanent injuries.

According to the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, over **22,000 workers are injured each year** by power tools. Most of these injuries happen because of small, avoidable mistakes like rushing or skipping inspections.

### Common Injuries

**Cuts and lacerations** : from knives, and other tools slipping.

**Puncture wounds and impalements** : from knives, staples, or misfired Hilti guns.

**Burns or electrical shocks** : from pin welders or damaged power cords.

**Eye injuries** : from flying staples, metal fragments, or sparks.

**Impact injuries** : from **Hilti gun kickbacks** or ricochets.

**Sprains and strains** : from repetitive or awkward tool use.

### **Common Causes**

**Using damaged or worn-out tools** (dull blades, cracked housing, frayed cords).

**Bypassing safety mechanisms** on Hilti guns or other power tools.

**Failing to wear PPE**, especially gloves, safety glasses, and hearing protection.

**Improper handling of loaded Hilti or pin weld guns.**

**Cutting toward your body** or holding materials too close to the cutting or fastening area.

**Rushing, horseplay, or distractions** during use.

**Improper grounding or using tools in wet conditions.**

**Skipping Inspections.**

### **Safety Tips**

**Inspect tools daily.** Check for cracks, loose parts, and frayed cords. Remove damaged tools from service immediately.

**Secure materials** before cutting, stapling, or welding.

**Disconnect or unload tools** before maintenance, changing blades, or clearing jams.

**Store tools properly:** keep sharp or loaded tools secured and organized.

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**Use the right tool for the job.** Don't substitute or modify tools to :make it work.:

#### **For Knives:**

Keep blades sharp. Dull knives require more force and are more likely to slip.

Always **cut away from your body** and never toward your free hand.

#### **For Hilti Guns:**

Only **trained and authorized** employees may use them.

**Inspect the base material** before firing: never shoot into brittle, cracked, or thin surfaces.

**Always wear safety glasses and hearing protection.**

**Keep hands and body parts away** from the muzzle at all times.

**Unload the tool** when not in use or when moving between work areas.

### **For Pin Welders:**

Wear **long sleeves**, gloves, and safety glasses.

Ensure proper grounding and avoid wet surfaces.

Always inspect before use and never try and modify equipment.

Maintain good ventilation: never weld in enclosed areas without airflow.

### **Discussion Questions**

What's the most common unsafe behavior you've seen with these tools:

What's one habit you can change today to work safer with hand and power tools:

### **Remember This!**

Your tools are only as safe as the hands using them. Inspect, protect, and respect every tool: every time.