

TOOL BOX TALKS

Circular Saw Safety

Hand-held circular saws can spin their blades at 5,000 revolutions per minute, making these saws extremely dangerous. Hazards include noise, flying objects, electrical and saw kickback. Saws should be inspected before use, and should not be used by untrained personnel. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) should be made available to operators of circular saws, in the form of hearing and eye protection. Review these safety tips:

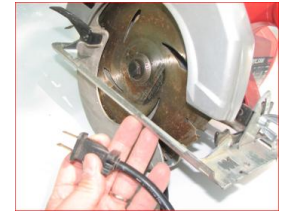
WORKSAFE TIPS

CIRCULAR SAW SAFETY RULES

- Always wear eye protection when using circular saws.
- Hearing protection is recommended as saws are very loud and can lead to hearing loss.
- Set the saw cutting depth as shallow as possible – avoid letting the blade protrude much below the stock being cut.
- Never set a circular saw down unless the blade has stopped.
- Change blades only when unplugged.
- Do not hold or force the retracting lower guard in the open position.
- Do not place hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.
- Do not over tighten the blade-locking nut.
- Do not twist the saw to change, cut or check alignment.
- Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe in any way.
- Do not force the saw during cutting – forcing can cause kickback.
- Do not cut materials without first checking for obstructions or other objects such as nails and screws.
- Do not carry the saw with a finger on the trigger switch.
- Do not overreach.
- Make sure to keep proper footing and balance.
- Do not rip stock without using a wedge or guide clamped or nailed to the stock.

MORE CIRCULAR SAW SAFETY RULES

- Any bodily contact with the saw will cause injury.
- Tie up loose clothing and hair, and remove jewelry that could be pulled into the saw.
- Operate circular saw with a good footing, and make sure the area is clear of trip hazards.
- Make adjustments with the saw unplugged.
- Verify that the saw blade or abrasive cutting disc has a RPM rating ABOVE the saw RPM.
- Never saw free-handed.
- Make sure the stock will not fall and “bind” the circular saw – kickback can occur.
- Use a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) when operating in outside, wet or damp locations.



GENERAL TOOL INSPECTION CRITERIA

- Inspect tools for any damage prior to each use.
- Check the handle and body casing of the tool for cracks or other damage.
- If the tool has auxiliary or double handles, make sure they're installed securely.
- Inspect cords for defects: check the power cord for cracking, fraying, and other signs of wear or faults in the cord insulation.
- Check for damaged switches and switches with faulty trigger locks.

Tool Box Talk

Date of Discussion _____

Instructor _____

Attendees:

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Follow-up Items

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

Work SAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments

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