



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips:
Power Tool Safety



Power tools are wonderful and very practical to use. But like most all equipment, they are only as good as the folks who use them and maintain them.

Following are some tips and suggestions, that if practiced, can make the use of power tools a safer and more enjoyable experience:

POWER TOOLS CAN BE DANGEROUS-

- Hand-held power tools are lightweight, portable and convenient to use. Because of that, it's easy to forget that they can be dangerous.
- Unsafe use can result in:
 - ~ Electric shock
 - ~ Fires or explosion
 - ~ Severe cuts, wounds, punctures, or injuries from flying debris.
- It's important to understand how your tool works and how to prevent accidents.

SAFETY TIPS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU START TO WORK-

- Sanders, drills, grinders and other power tools come with written instructions. Look these over before you plug in the tool. See your supervisor if you have any questions.
- Be sure that your work area is clean. Oil rags, sawdust, papers and other clutter can easily be ignited by sparks or heat.
- Don't use power tools if your area is wet or damp or if you are outside in the rain. Operating a power tool with wet hands or while standing in water can result in an electrical shock.
- Make sure the tool is turned off and unplugged from the power supply before you inspect it or install bits or blades.
- Carefully inspect the tool, its cord and any accessories before each use. Look for dirt, rust, dull blades, loose parts, malfunction switches, defective insulation or any other damage. Don't use the tool if it needs repair. Report any problems to your supervisor.

Power Tool – DO's

- Follow all written instructions and warnings.
- Immediately turn off and unplug any tool that sparks, overheats or causes an electrical shock.
- Keep power tools clean, sharp and in good operating condition.

WEAR THE RIGHT PROTECTIVE CLOTHING-

- Always wear long pants and long-sleeve shirts when you're working with power tools. Don't wear loose clothing.
- Tie back long hair and remove jewelry.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots with non-slip soles.
- Protect your hands, eyes, face, and lungs. Wear:
 - ~ Sturdy gloves
 - ~ Shielded safety glasses
 - ~ A dust/mist respirator
- A face shield may be recommended where there is a risk of flying particles.
- Earplugs or earmuffs will also help protect from loud noise.
- Different tools may have different requirements so be sure to check the manual. Ask your supervisor if you are unsure which protective equipment to wear.

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS-

- Be sure that the power tools are double insulated or grounded. Plug a three-pronged, grounding type of plug into a three-prong outlet.
- If you have to use an extension cord, use a heavy-duty one. Use a weatherproof type cord for outdoor use.
- It is a good idea to use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) for tool use.
- Use the right tool for the job. Never force a small tool to do a job that requires a heavy-duty tool.
- Keep guards and other safety devices intact.
- Remove adjusting keys and wrenches from the tool before plugging it in.
- Don't use power tools around chemicals or other flammable liquids.
- Turn off the tool and unplug it before changing a bit, Blade, or other part. Unplug it when you finish a job.

Power Tool – Don'ts

- Use a power tool without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Overreach or use a power tool while standing on a ladder. Plant your feet firmly on the floor.
- Try to fix a defective power tool yourself.

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**ONE BAD DAY AT THE
GRINDER
COULD RUIN YOUR
WHOLE LIFE!
LEAD THE WAY
◁>◁>◁>
SAFETY TODAY!!**