

SECTION 18

HAND AND POWER TOOLS

1. General Rules for Hand and Power Tools

- 1.1. Start out by using the proper tools for the job. Always keep tools clean and ready for use.
- 1.2. DO NOT REMOVE OR DEACTIVATE A TOOL GUARD OR SAFETY FEATURE FROM ANY TOOL.
- 1.3. Tools and equipment should be inspected prior to each use. INSPECT it and remove it out of service if you find defects such as:
 - 1.3.1. Any tool which shocks you.
 - 1.3.2. Broken or missing handles or guards.
 - 1.3.3. Cut or taped insulation on any power cord.
 - 1.3.4. Broken power tool cases.
 - 1.3.5. Cracked handles on shovels, picks or hammers.
 - 1.3.6. Mushroomed surfaces on any striking tool such as hammer wrench or chisel.
- 1.4. Carrying tools in pockets is dangerous, especially if tools are sharp or pointed.
- 1.5. Do not use excessive pressure or force on any hand tool.
- 1.6. Tools should neither be dropped nor thrown from place to place nor from person to person.
- 1.7. Tools that must be raised or lowered from one elevation to another shall be placed in a tool bag or firmly attached to hand-line.
- 1.8. Homemade or job-made tools are not to be used. In the event a special tool is needed for a specific task, for which no such manufactured tool exists, management approval must be obtained prior to construction of such a tool.
- 1.9. Wrenches should be pushed away from the body, if possible, to reduce the chance of the wrench slipping and striking the user in the face or body.
- 1.10. Never use a wrench as a hammer or a hammer on a wrench that is not designed to be used as such.
- 1.11. Never use a cheater bar on a wrench or “double wrench” a nut.
- 1.12. Tools must always be returned to their proper storage place and not left where they create a hazard or can become damaged.
- 1.13. Be prepared for the jamming of power tools such as drills. Have good footing and balance. Mount auxiliary handles if equipment is so supplied.
- 1.14. When portable electric tools or extension cords are used, they must be protected by the use of an approved GFCI.
- 1.15. Wear the correct hearing protection for the noise level the tool will generate.
- 1.16. All hand-held powered tools shall be equipped with a constant pressure switch that will shut off the power when the pressure is released.

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1.17. Cords shall not be drug or hung over sharp edges or run through or across aisles where they can be damaged or cause someone to trip.

2. Powder Actuated Fastening Hand Tools (1926.302(e))

- 2.1. Only employees who have been trained in the operation of the particular tool in use shall be allowed to operate a powder-actuated tool.
- 2.2. The tool shall be tested each day before loading to see that safety devices are in proper working condition. The method of testing shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedure.
- 2.3. Any tool found not in proper working order, or that develops a defect during use, shall be immediately removed from service and not used until properly repaired.
- 2.4. Personal protective equipment shall be in accordance with Subpart E of this part.
- 2.5. Tools shall not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time. Neither loaded nor empty tools are to be pointed at any employees. Hands shall be kept clear of the open barrel end.
- 2.6. Loaded tools shall not be left unattended.
- 2.7. Fasteners shall not be driven into very hard or brittle materials including, but not limited to, cast iron, glazed tile, surface-hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick, or hollow tile.
- 2.8. Driving into materials easily penetrated shall be avoided unless such materials are backed by a substance that will prevent the pin or fastener from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the other side.
- 2.9. No fastener shall be driven into a spalled area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening.
- 2.10. Tools shall not be used in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.
- 2.11. All tools shall be used with the correct shield, guard, or attachment recommended by the manufacturer.
- 2.12. Powder-actuated tools used by employees shall meet all other applicable requirements of American National Standards Institute, A10.3-1970, Safety Requirements for Explosive-Actuated Fastening Tool.

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3. Portable Generators

- 3.1. Inspect portable generators for damage or loose fuel lines that may have occurred during transportation and/or handling.
- 3.2. Keep the generator dry.
- 3.3. Maintain and operate portable generators in accordance with the manufacturer's use and safety instructions.
- 3.4. Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity and are commonly used during disaster response. Portable generators can be dangerous if used incorrectly.
- 3.5. Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure (home, office or trailer) unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch because this creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers.
- 3.6. Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords. Use undamaged heavy-duty extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged).
- 3.7. Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3.8. Before refueling, shut down the generator. Never store fuel indoors.