



Hand Tool  
Safety

## eSafetyLine

### Hand Tool Injuries

Each human hand is made up of a collection of 27 bones, 17 muscles and associated tendons, ligaments, blood vessels and nerves. These many pieces come together to allow you to perform all the varied tasks that make you a skilled and valued employee. Not only does having use of your hands allow you to accomplish tasks at work, they also allow you to live a full life; dress yourself, open a door or even just feed yourself. A hand injury may not be life threatening but will probably be life changing since these injuries can be very difficult to repair.

Injuries related to hand tools make up between seven and eight percent of all compensable injuries each year, many involve severe, permanent disabilities. Some of the more common hand tool-related injuries and possible causes are:

- Puncture Wounds- Very commonly result from the use of a screwdriver with a loose handle. This can lead the hand to slip causing the blade to puncture the hand
- Loss of an Eye and/or Vision- Using impact tools (hammers, chisels, etc) without eye-protection. The strike can cause a chip or fragment to fly into the eye.
- Broken Bones- A common injury cause by using the wrong hammer for a task or using something other than an impact tool for that job. A very common injury caused by this is smashing and breaking a bone in the hand.
- Severed Fingers, Tendons and/or Arteries- Using a dull knife or chisel or even using a screwdriver improperly will often result in a crippling injury.
- Bruising- This is a common injury on any jobsite but the chances of it happening are increased by using hand tools incorrectly or using the wrong tool for the job.

Because of your choice of careers, your hands are your bread and butter, a necessity to your employment. Any one of these injuries can cause a permanent disability that could quite possibly end your career on a worksite. The question then becomes how you will continue to feed and care for your family. These injuries don't have to happen; they can be easily avoided by paying attention to the task at hand and using the correct tool for that task.

### **Discussion Questions**

What is one of the main causes of vision loss?

Why are dull knives so dangerous on a job site?

# MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

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## EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor's Signature

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Date

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Safety Coordinator's Signature

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Date