



Hand Tool
Safety

eSafetyLine

Impact Tools

Although there are general safety tips for hand tools; there are enough differences among these tools that it is important to be aware of the specifics of each type. Impact tools include chisels, punches and hammers. Since these tools are designed to be hit against other surfaces what they are made of and how they are made is an important safety issue. Striking and hammer-struck tools should be made of hardened forged steel. This material will be hard enough to withstand blows without an excessive amount of mushrooming but not hard enough that it will chip or crack.

Hammers must have handles that are securely wedged that are suited to the type of head used. If the head becomes loosened, it has the potential of flying from the handle and causing a struck-by incident. The handle of the hammer should be kept smooth, free of oil, shaped to fit the hand and properly sized for the task at hand. Claw hammers are designed primarily for the driving and drawing of nails, not for striking heavier objects like cold chisels. The claw should only be used to draw out nails since they are susceptible to chipping or breaking.

Chisels, punches and other sharp tools should always be carried in carrying pouches that fasten around the waist and never in the pockets of clothing. The cloth could be easily cut and the tool drop out and injure the foot or leg. For chisels to function best (and most safely) they should be kept sharp, ground to a 60° angle and mushrooming heads should be ground off. Whenever using chisels and punches, eye protection must be worn. When using a hammer, eye protection could be a smart choice to protect from potential flying particles. When using these tools, it is a good safety idea to use a screen or shield to prevent injury to coworkers from flying particles.

Before using an impact tool it is crucial to visually inspect the tool. Here are some important things to keep an eye out for:

- Are carrying pouches available so chisels, punches and other sharp tools can be safely carried around the waist?
- Have mushroomed heads on chisels, punches etc. been reconditioned or replaced if necessary?
- Are chisels sharp and ground off a 60° angle?
- Do hammers have securely wedged handles?
- Are the handles of hammers smooth, clean and fitted to the task at hand?
- Have broken hammer handles been replaced?

A quick check of these tools can help increase the level of safety on any jobsite.

Discussion Questions

How can a hammer cause a struck-by incident?

When must eye protection be used with impact tools?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date