

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 22 Vol. 21 Week of 5/29/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

POWER SAWS

The portable power saw has become an indispensable tool on construction sites. The fact that we are all familiar with them does not diminish how dangerous they are. You must keep safety in mind **at all times** when you are handling power saws. One wrong move — shifting your weight, a sneeze, stumbling, or just looking up from your work — could spell disaster.

The teeth on a circular saw move at speeds around 12,000 feet per minute; that's almost 140 miles per hour. They sure as heck aren't going to stop if your finger, hand, or leg gets in the way. And remember, the chips coming off that blade move almost as fast so be sure to wear your safety glasses.

You should always inspect saws prior to use. Look for damaged parts, frayed cords, missing ground prongs, and damaged or missing guards. Never use a saw without all guards in place and in safe working order. If you find a defect, take the tool out of service, and be sure to tag it "do not use — needs repair" so no one else will try to use it.

When cutting, be prepared for the saw to kick back — which is what happens when the blade or workpiece catches or binds and jerks suddenly, usually back toward you. Make sure the workpiece is secured, and keep a firm grip on the saw. Cut with a sharp blade; it will make a safer, easier, cleaner cut. Use a blade designed for the material you're cutting and make sure all guides are adjusted properly. Anytime you change blades or make adjustments be sure to disconnect the power. Remember to unplug the battery if the saw is battery powered. As with any electrical tool, never carry a power saw with your finger on the switch, never yank the cord to unplug it from the outlet, and never use the cord to raise or lower it. Clean your saw before you put it away and store it in a secure, dry place.

Not too many of the people who have cut off their fingers did so on purpose. More likely than not, either they weren't paying attention, or they made a mistake. They had heard the same warnings about power saws that you've heard. It's up to you to be different by making sure you pay attention to the warnings — **always** — so you keep all your fingers on your hands where they belong.

**This week is National Safety Week,
a good time to resolve to make
Safety First.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____