

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____ Date _____

CUTTING HAZARDS

Due to the nature of our work, we face many cutting hazards in the construction industry. Almost every material we use needs to be cut during the construction process: lumber, PVC pipe, concrete, rebar, sheet metal, conduit, and wire. Some safety precautions to follow when you use cutting tools include: avoiding contact with the blade; working safely to prevent cuts or puncture wounds; and protecting yourself from flying particles, dust, splinters, and noise.

When using gas or electric power saws, you want to prevent any part of your body from coming into contact with the blade that is spinning at thousands of revolutions a minute. Touching the blade will lead to cuts or amputation of a body part. During cutting operations, always keep your hands at least six inches, and preferably twelve inches, away from the blade. Use a push stick or push block to feed materials through the blade. Never cut against any part of your body such as your hands or knees. Place the piece being cut on a firm surface and secure it with a vise or clamps. Keep blade guards in place and in proper working order. Never remove a guard to feed materials into a saw. Follow the manufacturers' recommendations on how and when to replace blades and cutters.

Knives and other hand-held cutting tools can also cause serious cuts and puncture wounds. Always cut away from yourself—never towards your face or body. Maintain control of the knife. Replace it in its carrying sheath when not in use. Avoid using razor blades for cutting anything unless the tool is designed for it. Use the right tool for the job; never improvise, use homemade tools, or take shortcuts. Keep blades sharp and clean for better control and better quality.

Wear personal protective equipment to guard against flying particles, dust, splinters, and noise created during cutting. Wear face shields, safety glasses, or goggles to protect against flying particles. Wear a mask or respirator when cutting brick, tile, or concrete since the airborne dust can damage your lungs. Always wear gloves to prevent cuts and avoid getting splinters. Because cutting operations can be noisy, make sure you wear appropriate hearing protection.

Cutting requires concentration. Keep your mind and your eyes focused on the task at hand. Never engage in horseplay around cutting tools. It only takes a second to cut through an artery or slice off a finger. If you do get cut, be sure to report the accident and seek medical attention immediately, even if the cut is only "minor."

SAFETY REMINDER **The Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program color code for October, November, and December is orange. If you use this program, test and color code all electrical cords and power tools.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.