

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

 SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 42 Vol. 21 Week of 10/16/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

FIXED POSITION SAWS

Many of us use fixed position saws, either at work or at home. We're talking about tools like table saws, band saws, radial arm saws, and power miter saws. These tools allow us to make difficult cuts quickly, easily, and very accurately; but their power and flexibility demand our care and respect. Here are some safety reminders and hints to keep in mind when you use fixed position saws.

First and foremost, and we've all heard this before — keep your fingers out of the blade. Use push sticks or blocks to keep your hands a safe distance from the blade. If no other option is available, make a jig or fixture to help you hold the workpiece while keeping your fingers at a safe distance. This will take less time and will be much cheaper than having your fingers surgically re-attached.

All saws make sawdust and small chips — wear eye protection. Depending on ventilation conditions and the material you're cutting, a respirator may also be necessary. Almost all saws are loud enough to make hearing protection a requirement. Don't wear loose clothing when you're operating any saw; and remove any jewelry that could get caught in the blade, on the table, on a guide, or on a handle.

Make sure that the saw is in good, safe operating condition. Check all the guards and keep them in place at all times. Keep guides, slides, rollers, etc. clean so they don't bind during a cut. Only use blades, cutters, and attachments that are designed to be used with your saw. Dull blades are dangerous; use sharp ones instead. Always unplug and/or lockout the saw before changing blades or performing maintenance, even if "it's only going to take a second". Here's a little hint for using radial arm saws: consider raising the front legs just a little (no more than half an inch); this will keep the saw carriage from rolling forward when you're moving or aligning the workpiece.

Working safely with and around fixed position saws is mandatory. If you don't, you or a co-worker will pay the price, usually in the form of a body part. Treat these and all tools with the respect they deserve and you'll go home every night with your fingers on your hands where they belong.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Never surprise or startle someone
operating a power tool.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____