



SAFETY PAGES

June 2020
Safety Pages:

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Remember if you have any safety suggestions, questions or concerns please let us know. In addition, if you have a safety topic that you would like covered in a Safety Page for training purposes let us know and we will develop one. Topics to our inventory of monthly Safety Pages are continually being added.



The OHBA/SAIF Safety Pages are an ongoing series of pages, designed to provide a selection of safety topics each month to OHBA members. Please use these pages to add to (or start) either a Safety Committee file or manual for your company. Some of the Safety Pages will be on general topics and others will be for Owner/Supervisors. The Owner/Supervisor Safety Pages will be on topics based more on compliance or suggested management safety practices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Home Builders Association Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the OHBA Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.

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OHBA Safety Pages: Safe Use of Pneumatic Nailing & Stapling Equipment

- Permit only trained and experienced workers to operate pneumatic nailing and stapling tools.
- Wear proper eye (safety glasses) and hearing (ear plugs and/or earmuffs) protection.
- Make sure the tool is maintained in safe operating condition.
- Inspect the tool before connecting to the air supply.
 - Check safety mechanisms if applicable.
 - Ensure the screws and cylinder caps are securely tightened.
 - Make sure the air pressure is as specified by the manufacturer for the tool.
- Before using, check that the tool is properly connected to the air supply and is in working order, with the safety mechanism operable.
- Do not operate the tool at air pressures above the manufacturer's specifications.
- Always handle the tool as if it contains fasteners (loaded).
- Always use a work-contacting element that limits the contact area to one as small as practical.
- Make sure the mechanical linkage between the work-contacting element and the trigger is enclosed.
- Disconnect the tool from the air supply and exhaust all air from the tool by squeezing the trigger when:
 - Not in use, or
 - Cleaning or adjusting, or
 - Clearing a blockage, or
 - Reloading
- Use only fasteners recommended by the manufacturer of the tool and follow the manufacturer's instructions when reloading.
- Do not point the tool at yourself or any other person.
- Do not squeeze the trigger unless the nose piece of the tool is directed at a safe work surface.
- Do not transport the tool with your finger on the trigger.
- Do not secure the trigger in the ON position.
- Do not overreach when using the tool.
- Ensure you have the right amount of air pressure for the size and type of nail/staple you are using. **Caution:** Too much pressure can cause a nail/staple to go right through the material and could cause serious injury to other workers
- If using nailers powered by butane or powder actuated be sure to follow the manufacturer's safe operating procedures on those as well.



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SAFETY PAGE MEETING GUIDE

Topic: Safe Use of Pneumatic Nailing & Stapling Equipment

Employer: _____ Project: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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Supervisor's remarks: _____

Supervisor: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)

OHBA Safety Pages: Safe Use of Table Saws

- Permit only trained and experienced workers to operate a saw.
 - Wear proper eye and hearing protection, and when required, respiratory protection.
 - Refer to and follow the table saw manufacturer's instructions for reducing the risk of kickbacks.
 - Make sure the guard is in place and working correctly.
 - Choose the proper saw blade for the type of work being done.
 - Keep saw blades clean, sharp, and properly set so they will cut freely without being forced.
 - Keep the work area clean. Operate the table saw in a non-congested, well-lighted area.
 - Feed material into the saw blade counter to the direction of rotation.
 - During cutting, keep hands out of the line of the saw cut.
 - Use the saw blade guard with a spreader and anti-kickback fingers for ripping or cross cutting operations.
 - Keep your body to the side of the saw blade out of the line of a possible kickback.
 - Use a push stick when ripping narrow stock.
 - When changing the saw blade:
 1. Operate the Stop button on the saw to shut off the machine.
 2. Disconnect the power supply.
 3. Place the plug end of the cord on top of the saw table. Or follow your Lockout / Tag-Out procedures for the machine.
 4. Replace the saw blade. Be sure to wear proper cut resistant gloves when handling the saw blades.
 - Do not perform free-hand sawing. The stock must be held firmly against the miter gauge or rip fence to position and guide the cut.
 - Do not reach around or over a moving saw blade.
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- Do not leave the table saw unattended while the saw blade is in motion.



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OHBA Safety Pages: Utility Knife Safety

There's one hand tool that demands your respect over many others in the workplace, a tool that can cut you to the bone in an instant . . . the utility knife.

Many workers use utility knives, but one wrong move and they can do serious harm. In fact, nearly 40 percent of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the US involve knives with retractable blades.

Many accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:

- Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body.
- Working with a dull blade. (They require more pressure, increasing the potential for injury.)
- Trying to cut more than the knife can handle.
- Improperly storing the knife with the blade extended.
- Failing to wear personal protective equipment.
- Neglecting to inspect the tool before use.



There have been cases where workers have suffered injuries from exposed blade tips. This is because the blades did not completely retract into the handle. That's why it's important for workers to use the proper size blades or replace defective retraction mechanisms. Some companies use self-retracting utility knives – the blade automatically retracts when not in use. The following are safety precautions to keep in mind when using utility knives:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case a blade breaks.
- Always use a sharp blade. They are safer than a dull blade.
- Wear cut resistant gloves and sleeves (at least Level 3) to protect your hands and arms.
- Hand a utility knife to a co-worker with the handle first.
- Use one of the newer model self-retracting blade knives.
- If the application allows, use one of the new knives with a shielded knife surface.
- Consider using a rounded tip blade if the application allows for such.
- Ensure the blades are properly positioned in the handle before use.
- Keep extremities out of the cutting path.
- Don't apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when changing blades.
- Don't use utility knives to pry loose objects.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.
- Use of disposable knives with breakaway blades is not meant for industrial use.



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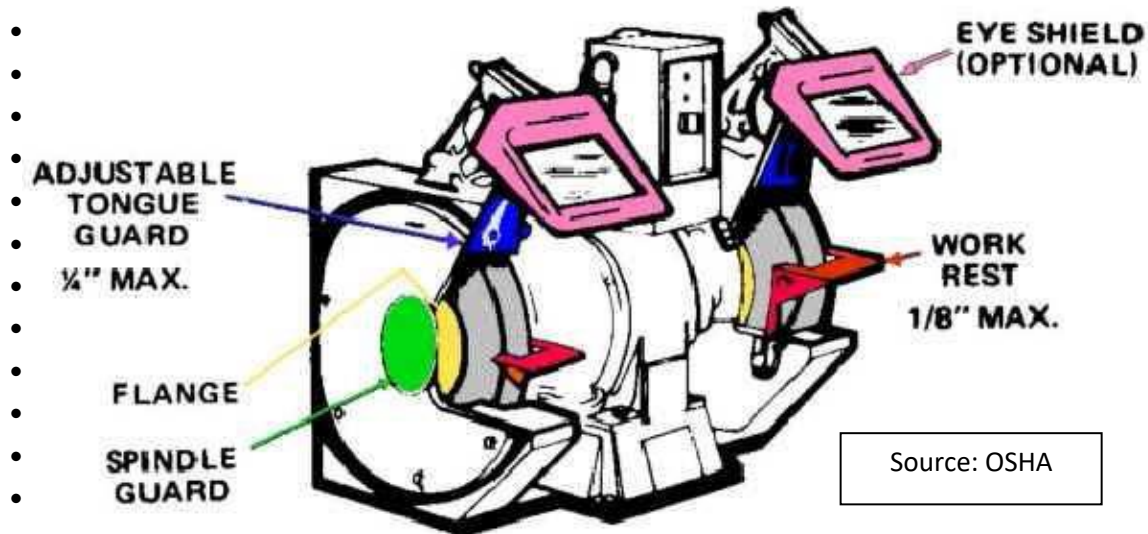
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OHBA Safety Pages: Bench & Pedestal Grinder Safety



- Side guards cover the spindle, nut and flange, plus 75% of the wheel diameter.
- Work rest in place and kept adjusted to within $\frac{1}{8}$ " of the wheel.
- Tongue guard in place and kept to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the wheel.
- Verify the maximum RPM rating of each abrasive wheel is compatible with the RPM Rating of the grinder motor.
- Before new abrasive wheels are mounted be sure to visually inspect and ring test.
- As the wheel wears down, readjust the tool rest and tongue guards. When you can no longer adjust them, time to replace the wheel.
- Bench & Pedestal grinders need to be permanently mounted to prevent them from moving while in operation.
- Goggles or face shields should always be worn when grinding.
- Maintain the work area so that it is free of clutter and the accumulation of debris.



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OHBA Safety Pages: Heat Illness

Anyone can become susceptible to heat illness in very warm weather. This is especially true for people doing hard work or heavy labor outside. However, if the temperature is high enough, even indoor workers can become susceptible and may suffer heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or heat cramps.

HEAT STROKE (or sun stroke) is a life-threatening situation and must be treated immediately. The victim's temperature-control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

Signs and symptoms of heat stroke are hot, red, dry skin; very small pupils and very high body temperature. The body temperature may be rising rapidly. There may also be a rapid pulse, very small pupils, loss of consciousness, and convulsions. If the victim was sweating from heavy work, his or her skin may be wet; otherwise it will feel dry.

First Aid. Call 911. Get the person out of the heat and into a cooler place fast. Quickly cool the victim's body. Immerse the victim in a cool bath or wrap wet towels around their body and fan them. Elevate head and shoulders and treat for shock. Give nothing by mouth.

HEAT EXHAUSTION is less dangerous than heat stroke but it can cause collapse. It typically occurs when working in a warm, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Fluid loss causes blood flow to decrease in the vital organs, resulting in a form of shock. With heat exhaustion sweat does not evaporate, as it should. As a result, the body is not cooled effectively.

Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion are cool, pale, and moist (clammy) skin, heavy sweating, dilated pupils, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, low blood pressure, weak pulse, and vomiting. Body temperature will be nearly normal.

First Aid. Get the victim out of the heat and into a cooler place immediately. Place them on their back with feet up. If possible, remove or loosen the victim's clothing. Cool them by fanning and applying cold packs (putting a cloth between the cold pack and the victim's skin) or wet towels. Give care for shock and give them one-half glassful of water to drink every 15 minutes, if they are conscious and can tolerate it.

HEAT CRAMPS (muscle spasms) are muscle pains and spasms due to heavy exertion, heavy sweating, and usually involve the abdominal muscles or legs. Cramps occur in arms and legs after strenuous work.

First Aid. Get the victim to a cooler place. If they can tolerate fluids, give them one-half glass of water or sports drinks every 15 minutes for an hour. No alcohol or caffeine.

HEAT RASH (prickly heat) occurs when humidity prevents sweat from evaporating. Over-the-counter drugs are available for treatment.

SUNBURN obviously occurs when skin is over-exposed to the sun's harmful rays. The summer is most dangerous because ultraviolet and infrared rays are intense and because the temperature is warm and comfortable, making it easier to work without a shirt. Wear protective clothing and consider wearing sunscreen or sunblock.

AVOID HEAT ILLNESSES

During the summer:

- wear protective, lightweight, light-colored clothing
- drink cool water, (not iced water) — at least a cup every 20 minutes
- take breaks to cool off; a worker should never be denied a break if he or she is overheated.

DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN OR SALT TABLETS TO ANYONE SUFFERING FROM A HEAT-RELATED EMERGENCY.



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