

POWER TOOL SAFETY

Talking Points:

Statistics

1. Power tools cause approximately 960,000 injuries annually
2. 200 fatalities each year
3. The average age of those injured is 53

Most Common Injuries

1. Tendon injuries
2. Electrical shock
3. Eye injuries
4. Puncture wounds
5. Crushing injuries
6. Amputations

Sources of Power

1. Electricity
2. Pneumatic
3. Liquid fuel
4. Hydraulic
5. Powder-actuated

Select the Correct Tool for the Job (Make sure the tool...)

1. Is designed for the job
2. Is the correct size
3. Can be used in a comfortable position and requires minimum force
4. Has a non-slip grip or handle fitted for stability

Inspect the Tool

1. Look for any damage to power cords
2. Ensure the 3-prong grounded plug is in place
3. Check for any air or fluid leaks on hoses or connections
4. Ensure cutting edges are sharp

Safety Tips

1. Always perform pre-use inspections
2. Use the tool for its intended use only
3. Keep all guards in place
4. Secure any items with vises or clamps
5. Ensure good footing and balance
6. Keep your body and other coworkers out of the zone of operation
7. Do not use excessive force to cut or drill through hard materials, let the tool do the work!
8. Unplug or disconnect all power tools when adjusting or changing out any accessories
9. Unplug any cords by grasping the plug, never pull on the cord
10. Always take any damaged tools out of service
11. Never wear loose-fitting clothing or jewelry around rotating power tools

For more safety tips and courses, visit [ndsc.org](https://www.ndsc.org)