



HAND TOOL SAFETY



Talking Points:

Statistics

1. Nearly 1 million hand injuries reported in the US annually
2. Hand tool injuries cost employers \$30 million a year
3. Lacerations make up 40% of the injuries
4. Proper glove use can prevent up to 70% of hand injuries

Categories of Hand Tools

1. Cutting, Gripping, or Pinching Tools – pliers, snips, cutters
2. Striking Tools – hammers
3. Driving Tools – screwdrivers, wrenches, nut drivers
4. Struck or Hammered Tools – punches, chisels, nails

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 wear or damage
2. Should not be rusty, warped, splintered or cracked
3. Be careful with any tools covered in paint or tape as this may hide damage
4. Make sure all cutting edges are sharp (knives, saw blades, etc...)
5. Struck or hammered tools, like chisels, must be kept free of mushroom heads
6. Do not use wrenches when jaws are sprung to the point that slippage occurs

Safety Tips

1. Never use metal spark producing hand tools in flammable environments
2. Always wear the proper PPE, such as safety glasses and gloves.
3. Ensure the area is free of any other hazards before beginning work with any hand tools
4. Ensure everyone is properly trained on how to use each tool safely

For more safety tips and courses, visit ndsc.org

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