Stony Brook University

SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter | September 2015

Hand Tool Safety

Household jobs usually are light. Our work, however, makes rugged demands on tools. If we misuse a tool, or use one that's wrong for the job or in poor condition, it can result in serious injury or spoiled work.

Choose the right tool for the job

Would you use an axe to drive nails? Obviously not. You'd use a claw hammer. It's the less obvious misuse of tools that give us the most trouble. Like using a screwdriver or a file as pry bar. Trouble also comes from trying to get by with a tool that's not the right size for the job. A common mistake is using a wrench that's the wrong size for the nut, or one with a handle that's too short. This can result in scraped knuckles or a broken wrench.

How many times have you seen a person slip a cheater pipe over a wrench handle for more leverage on a tight nut? In many cases, the cheater pipe slips off the handle and the worker loses his balance and falls. Often it's off a ladder. Don't take chances. Get the right tool, even if it takes you a few minutes longer. You'll probably save yourself lost time and pay.

Here are a few tips for using tools properly:

1. Pull a wrench. Don't push.
2. Use the full handle of the hammer. If you choke up on it, you'll lose control.
3. Always cut away from yourself.
4. Be sure to wear eye protection if there's any chance of chips or flying particles.
5. Don't use a file without a handle.
6. Don't use a chisel or screwdriver as a pry bar.

Carry and store tools safely

If you carry tools in your hands, keep sharp or cutting edges covered and hold them away from you.

Use a toolbox or belt when you carry a lot of tools. Don't stuff them in your pockets. Keep the toolbox orderly so you can easily find the tool you need without getting cut or gouged.

If your buddy wants to borrow one of your tools, hand it to him – don't toss it.

Date:	
Department:	
Supervisor *(please print)*:	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: ***Please Print Clearly***	*Signature*

Environmental Health and Safety

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.