



KEEP SAFE

A Monthly Publication for Texas Electric Cooperatives

August 2011

Hand and portable powered tools

Tools are such a common part of our lives that it is difficult to remember that they may pose hazards. All tools are manufactured with safety in mind but, tragically, a serious accident often occurs before steps are taken to search out and avoid or eliminate tool-related hazards.

In the process of removing or avoiding the hazards, workers must learn to recognize the hazards associated with the different types of tools and the safety precautions necessary to prevent those hazards.

Hand tools

Hand tools are non-powered. They include anything from axes to wrenches. The greatest hazards posed by hand tools result from misuse and improper maintenance.

Some examples:

- Using a screwdriver as a chisel may cause the tip of the screwdriver to break and fly, hitting the user or other employees.
- If a wooden handle on a tool such as a hammer or an axe is loose, splintered, or cracked, the head of the tool may fly off and strike the user or another worker.
- A wrench must not be used if its jaws are sprung, because it might slip.
- Impact tools such as chisels, wedges, or drift pins are unsafe if they have mushroomed heads. The heads might shatter on impact, sending sharp fragments flying.

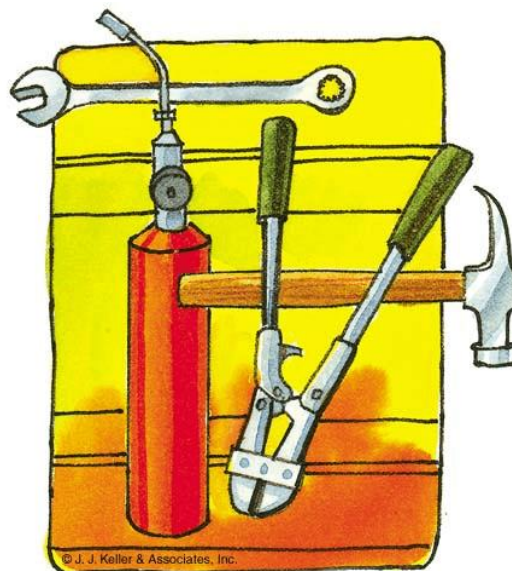
The employer is responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees but the employees have the responsibility for properly using and maintaining tools.

Employers should caution employees that saw blades, knives, or other tools be directed away from aisle areas and other employees working in close proximity. Knives and scissors must be sharp. Dull tools can be more hazardous than sharp ones.

Appropriate personal protective equipment, e.g., safety goggles, gloves, etc., should be worn due to hazards that may be encountered while using portable power tools and hand tools.

Safety requires that floors be kept clean and dry as possible to prevent accidental slips with or around dangerous hand tools.

Around flammable substances, sparks produced by iron and steel hand tools can be a dangerous ignition source. Where this hazard exists, spark-resistant tools made from brass, plastic, aluminum, or wood will provide for safety.



Power tool precautions

Power tools can be hazardous when improperly used. There are several types of power tools, based on the power source they use: electric, pneumatic, liquid fuel, hydraulic, and powder-actuated.

Employees should be trained in the use of all tools - not just power tools. They should understand the potential hazards as well as the safety precautions to prevent those hazards from occurring.

(Hand tools continued on page 2)

August – Keep falls out of your home

According to a study conducted by the Home Safety Council, falls account for an average of 5.1 million injuries and nearly 6,000 deaths in the U.S. each year — by far the leading cause of unintentional home injury or death. Use this month's Safety Saturday to address problem areas around your home.

Bathroom

- Install grab bars by the bathtub, shower and toilet. These help people of all ages.
- Affix non-slip strips to the floor of your tub or shower.
- Place a bath mat with a non-skid bottom next to the bathing area.
- If you have young children, stay within arm's reach when they are in the tub, and assist them in using the sink.
- Keep the bathroom floor clean and dry — wipe up spills immediately.

Stairs, hallways and walkways

- Add handrails to both sides of all stairways, making sure the rails reach fully from top to bottom.
- Keep stairs and landings clear of toys or other objects. If you have a baby or toddler at home, install hardware-mounted safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway.
- Do not allow children to play on stairs, balconies or landings.
- Install bright lights at the top and bottom of stairs, and over porches and outdoor walkways.
- Use nightlights in hallways, bathrooms and children's rooms.

Windows

- Never leave young children alone near open windows.
- Move furniture away from windows in children's rooms.
- On upper floors of your home, install specially designed window guards with a quick-release mechanism that allows an adult to easily open the window in case of fire.

— Home Safety Council

For more home safety tips, visit MySafeHome.org

(Hand tools continued from page 1)

The following general precautions should be observed by power tool users:

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
 - Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
 - Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits and cutters.
 - All observers should be kept at a safe distance away from the work area.
 - Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
 - Avoid accidental starting. The worker should not hold a finger on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
 - Tools should be maintained with care. They should be kept sharp and clean for the best performance. Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
 - Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance.
 - The proper apparel should be worn. Loose clothing, ties, or jewelry can become caught in moving parts.
 - All portable electric tools that are damaged shall be removed from use and tagged "Do Not Use."

Guards

Hazardous moving parts of a power tool need to be safeguarded. For example, belts, gears, shafts, pulleys, sprockets, spindles, drums, fly wheels, chains, or other reciprocating, rotating, or moving parts of equipment must be guarded if such parts are exposed to contact by employees.

Guards, as necessary, should be provided to protect the operator and others from the following:


- point of operation
- in-running nip points
- rotating parts, and
- flying chips and sparks.

Safety guards must never be removed when a tool is being used. For example, portable circular saws must be equipped with guards. An upper guard must cover the entire blade of the saw. A retractable lower guard must cover the teeth of the saw, except when it makes contact with the work material. The lower guard must automatically return to the covering position when the tool is withdrawn from the work.

Source: KellerOnline®



Texas Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

2011 TEC LOSS CONTROL SCHOOLS (34 Schools)

Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Merkel)	January 11-14
Metering (Gonzales)	January 18-21
2 Day Transformer (San Augustine)	January 26-27
Transformer (Livingston)	February 8-11
Metering (Lubbock)	February 15-18
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (San Augustine)	February 22-25
Advanced Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	February 22-25
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Tahoka)	March 1-4
Troubleshooting (Greenville)	March 8-11
Transformer (Gonzales)	March 29-April 1
Metering (Merkel)	April 5-8
Basic Pole Climbing (San Augustine)	April 5-8
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (McGregor)	April 12-15
Hotline 1-4 (Henderson)	April 25-29
Basic Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	April 26-29
Underground (Quitman)	May 2-6
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Gonzales)	May 10-13
Transformer (Tahoka)	May 17-20
Hotline 1-4 (Merkel)	May 23-27
Digger Operation and Safety School (Merkel)	May 23-27
Metering (McGregor)	June 7-10
Basic Pole Climbing (Tahoka)	June 7-10
Underground (Gonzales)	June 13-17
Metering (Livingston)	June 21-24
Troubleshooting (Livingston)	July 26-29
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Greenville)	August 16-19
Underground School (Levelland)	August 22-26
Hotline 1-4 (Gonzales)	August 29-Sept 2
Digger Operation and Safety School (Gonzales)	August 29-Sept 2
Underground (McGregor)	September 12-16
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Livingston)	September 20-23
Hotline 1-4 (Levelland)	September 26-30
Underground (Merkel)	October 3-7
Hotline 1-4 (Livingston)	October 24-28