Power tools toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.20, 1926.300, 1926.302, 1926.21, 1926.102, 1910.243

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is the one thing you check every time before you pull the trigger on a power tool?

Why it matters

Power tools save time, but they can cut, burn, shock and throw debris in a second. Tool injuries happen when a guard is missing, a cord is damaged, the wrong tool is used or a worker is rushing. A quick check before every use takes less time than a trip to the clinic.

Key points

1. **Inspect before every use**
   Look at the tool, the cord and the plug. Check that guards are in place and move freely. Do not use a tool with a cracked housing, a frayed cord or a bent plug. Tag it out and report it. Employers must provide for frequent and regular inspections of equipment by competent persons.
   29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)

2. **Keep the guards on**
   When power tools are designed to accommodate guards, they must be equipped with those guards when in use. Never remove or tie back a guard to work faster.
   29 CFR 1926.300(b)(1)

3. **Use grounded or double insulated tools**
   Electric power-operated tools must either be of the approved double-insulated type or be grounded. Never cut off the grounding prong. Use a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter, a device that cuts the power fast) on wet or outdoor jobs, and keep cords out of water and away from sharp edges.
   29 CFR 1926.302(a)(1)

4. **Never carry or hoist a tool by its cord**
   Using electric cords for hoisting or lowering tools is not permitted. Use a rope or a bucket. Never yank a cord to unplug a tool, and never leave a cord where people will trip on it or vehicles will run over it.
   29 CFR 1926.302(a)(2)

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5 **Secure air tools and wear eye protection**

Pneumatic tools must be secured to the hose or whip by some positive means so they cannot disconnect by accident. Employers must make sure workers use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to flying particles. Add hearing protection, gloves and a dust mask when the job calls for it.

29 CFR 1926.302(b)(1)

6 **Only trained people use special tools**

Only employees who have been trained in the operation of the particular tool in use may operate a powder-actuated tool. If you have not been trained on a tool, do not use it. Ask your supervisor first.

29 CFR 1926.302(e)(1)

Scenario

Picture this: A worker is cutting tile with an angle grinder. The guard keeps getting in the way, so he takes it off. The cord is frayed and has been wrapped in tape. He is not wearing safety glasses because they fog up. The wheel catches, kicks and flings chips toward a coworker. What was wrong with each decision, and what should he have done?

Crew discussion

1. What tool on this site do you think is most dangerous, and why?
2. Have you ever seen a guard removed or a cord taped up? What did you do?
3. What protective equipment do you need for the tools you use?
4. Who is trained on the special tools on this job?

Bottom line **Check the tool, keep the guard on, protect your eyes and use only the tools you are trained to use.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Power tool safety / Seguridad con herramientas eléctricas

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____ Location / Lugar _____ Company / Empresa _____

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