

# Get a Handle on Hand Tools

## Hazard Recognition

The misuse of hand tools in industry is the cause of about seven to eight percent of all compensable injuries each year. These injuries often involve severe disabilities. The following are examples of hand tool injury and some probable causes:

- Loss of eye/vision - Using striking tools without eye protection
- Puncture Wounds - Using a screwdriver with a loose handle, causing the hand to slip
- Severed Fingers, Tendons and Arteries - Using a dull knife requires so much force that your hand may slip down the blade
- Broken Bones - Using the wrong hammer and smashing a finger
- Contusions - Using a small wrench for a big job and bruising knuckles



## Basic Hand Tool Safety

- Safety is a state of mind. Always think when using a tool:
  1. Is it in good condition?
  2. Is it sized right for the job?
- Use it for its intended purpose.
- Keep tools in good condition: sharp, clean and oiled.
- Worn tools are dangerous. Replace them.
- Do not force tools beyond their capacity.
- Secure work in a vice, not hands.
- Chisels, screwdrivers or other pointed tools should never be carried in clothing pockets.
- Drill bits and saw blades should be kept sharp.
- Keep floors clean and dry to avoid slips with or around dangerous hand tools.
- Always wear the PPE required for the job. Protect your eyes, hands and ears.

## Safety Meeting Resources

Keyword: Hand Tool Safety

### PureSafety Course: Hand and Power Tool Safety

[http://www.maine.gov/beh/Safety/GenRules/hand\\_safety.htm](http://www.maine.gov/beh/Safety/GenRules/hand_safety.htm)

<http://www.safety.fsu.edu/toolmanual.html>

## Research your topic and use these simple questions and steps to get your safety meeting off on the right foot!

1. Discuss why this topic is important to NDOR employees.
2. How does it affect me and my co-workers?
3. Inspect hand tools for damage and wear.
4. Are tools stored properly and safely?
5. Set a procedure for care and inspection.