A Look at Nail Gun Safety

Nail Guns
Whenever you are using a nail gun safety should be incorporated into every action. Injuries as minor as a puncture to as severe as death has resulted from the use of nail guns. This bulletin is intended to give you some of the generalized safety guidelines you should follow when using these tools. Reference your user’s manual for specific safe use principles for your individual tool.

The following are some dos and don’ts when using nail guns. These simple rules will help keep you and those around you safe.

Do not:
- Use the tool for anything besides what it is intended for, i.e. do not use to hammer in nails or to hit something into place.
- Alter the tool in anyway
- Remove safety devices
- Use the tool if you are not properly trained in operating the nail gun.
- Permit bystanders near the work. Shields for protecting workers against a possible ricochet may be necessary in the working area
- Point the nail gun at anyone.

Do:
- Read all manufacture warnings before using
- Perform preventative maintenance
- Store tool in a safe and secure area
- Wear hearing protection
- Brace yourself at all times when working on ladders or scaffolds to maintain good balance
- Disconnect from the air supply before reloading

Personal Protective Equipment:
- Safety glasses with side shields
- Hearing protection

Safe Work Practices:
- These tools should not be used in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.
- Before using the tool, the worker should inspect it to determine that it is clean, that all moving parts operate freely.
- The tool should not be connected to the air supply unless it is to be used immediately.
- Tools connected to an air supply should not be left unattended, especially where it would be available to unauthorized persons.
- Hands should be kept clear of the barrel end. To prevent the tool from firing accidentally, two separate motions should be required for firing: one to bring the tool into position and activate the nose guard, and another to pull the trigger.
- Tools must not be able to operate until they are pressed firmly against the work surface.

Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.

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