

Hand tool use

Introduction:

User skill and tool condition are essential ingredients in ensuring that tasks are completed efficiently and safely.

Hazards:

- Broken or worn out tools, handles or heads.
- Improper use of tools for inappropriate tasks.
- Standing on uneven surfaces such as: one foot on an ergo mat and one foot on the floor.
- Inappropriate or deficient lighting sources.

Safe procedures:

Wrenches

- When placing an adjustable wrench on a nut, make sure the adjustable jaw faces you, then pull the wrench toward you,. This may prevent the wrench from slipping, which can cause cut or skinned knuckles.
- Never use a pipe wrench on nuts because the corners of the nuts may break the teeth of the wrench jaws, making it unsafe for future use.
- Inspect wrenches for defects prior to use. Wipe clean before and after using if oily or soiled.
- Always wear safety glasses to protect the eyes.

Hammers

- Select the right size—a light hammer may bounce off. One that's too heavy is hard to control.
- Never strike hardened steel surfaces with a steel hammer. Use a soft metal hammer or one with a plastic, wood, or rawhide head.

- The handle must be tightly wedged into the head, and should be free of splinters and cracks.

Pliers

- Never substitute pliers for another tool, such as a wrench, to complete the task. It may slip or cause the bolt heads to become chewed.

Screwdrivers

- Never use a screwdriver for prying, punching, chiseling, scoring or scraping.
- Make sure the tip fits tightly in to the slot of the screw.
- Never use a screwdriver on a work piece held in your hand. A slip could cause serious injury.

Chisels and punches

- Wear eye protection when hammering on chisels and punches or any other metal objects.

Files

- A file without a handle can be dangerous. Keep a handle on every file to prevent the tang from piercing the palm or wrist.
- Clean files with a file card after use. Do not strike the file against something to “clean” it.

In conclusion:

All tools need to be inspected routinely and kept in good repair. Defective tools should be immediately removed from service, repaired, or discarded. If working up high, use a tool belt or carrying bag.