

Description

Employees who use hand tools are exposed to hazards that could cause lacerations, abrasions, puncture wounds, contusions, fractures, burns, and other injuries. A large part of working safely with hand tools is understanding the hazards and taking adequate precautions. Employees should know how to select and use the right tool for the job, and the employer must provide workers with the personal protective equipment necessary to protect them from the hazards.

Objectives

After your training program, the trainees should be able to:

- Select the correct tool for the job.
- Explain common hand tool hazards and how to avoid them.
- Explain why impact tools must be kept free of mushroomed heads.
- Explain why the wooden handles of tools must be kept free of splinters or cracks and be kept tight in the tool.
- Demonstrate how to avoid repetitive motion injuries.
- Select and wear proper personal protective equipment for the tool being used.

Audience

This training program will benefit employees who use any types of hand tools. It would be a good practice to provide training at the time of initial assignment to a job where an employee will be required to use hand tools.

Requirements

OSHA does not have specific employee training requirements for hand tools, but employees who understand the hazards and know how to use tools correctly will have less risk of injury.

Although this training program does not focus on personal protective equipment (PPE), employers should be aware of OSHA's PPE rule (29 CFR 1910.132). When using hand tools necessitates the use of PPE, employees must receive training in the following:

- When PPE is necessary.
- What PPE is necessary.
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE.
- The limitations of the PPE.
- The proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE.

Each affected employee must demonstrate understanding of the training and the ability to use PPE properly before being allowed to perform work requiring its use. A required written PPE training certification needs to include the:

- Name of each employee trained.
- Date of training.
- Subject of the training.