

Hammer and Hand Tool Safety

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

Hand tools get skipped in safety talks because they seem too basic to discuss, which is exactly why they keep injuring people. A worn tool fails suddenly and at close range.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Mushroomed chisel or punch heads that throw metal fragments when struck.
- Loose or split handles that let the head come off mid-swing.
- The wrong tool used because the right one was in the truck: pliers as a wrench, knife as a screwdriver.
- Tools carried in pockets or thrown to someone rather than passed or hoisted.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Inspect before use: handle tight and uncracked, head undamaged, cutting edge sharp.
- Dress or replace mushroomed heads. Do not keep striking them.
- Use the tool that is designed for the job, even when fetching it costs five minutes.
- Cut away from your body, and keep your other hand out of the path of the blade.
- Carry tools in a bag or belt, and hoist rather than throw when working at height.

ASK THE CREW

1. Look in the bags on this site. What is in them that should not be?
2. Which chisel or punch here has a mushroomed head?
3. Who is using a tool for something it was not made for today?
4. How do tools get to the crew working above us?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

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SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE