

Location _____ Trainer _____ Date _____

DEFECTIVE TOOLS

There's an old-time basic safety rule that covers this problem: Don't use them. Simple, isn't it?

Defective tools are dangerous. Their use has resulted in a great many accidents, a lot of them serious and some fatal. Slipping wrenches have caused men to fall from ladders or scaffolds. Loose handles on hammers and picks have resulted in serious head and body injuries. Far too many men have lost eyes because they used chisels or drills with mushroomed heads. It could happen to you but it won't if you follow this rule: Don't use them.

We don't have to list all the defects you may run into with small hand tools. You're all familiar with them - loose, split or cracked handles, even crooked handles; mushroomed heads on chisels, drills, steel wedges; files without handles; worn-out jaws on wrenches and many others. Let's just remember to check tools before we use them and to turn in all defective ones.

Power tools, whether powered with electricity, air or gasoline, require considerable skill and certainly complete attention on the part of the user even when they're in A-1 mechanical condition. When defective, power tools become killers, so don't use them.

Although probably more accident have occurred in the use of defective non-powered tools than in the use of hand-operated power tools, injuries from the latter source are usually more serious. Perhaps the most common defect with power-operated tools is a broken, displaced or inoperative guard. Guards are placed on equipment to prevent injuries. Using tools with inoperative or broken guards can lead to disaster. A power saw with the guard wedged back is just as defective a machine as a power saw with a cracked blade. Either one is dangerous.

Electric-powered tools can have defective switches, poorly insulated cords and, most often, no provisions for grounding. Air-powered tools and equipment show up on the job with valves that will not completely open or close. On gasoline-motored equipment, probably the most common defect is an out-of-order throttle.

So that we'll have no accidents from defective tools, let's remember these three points:

- Double-check all tools before you use them.
- Turn in all defective tools right away.
- Never use a defective tool.

Be Safe - Not Sorry. The Injury You Prevent Might Well Be Your Own.