



PORTABLE CIRCULAR SAWS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – TOOL AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY

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Portable circular saws constitute one of the most abused power tools in the construction industry. When workers become familiar with the tool, they become complacent. This complacency results in injury and in some cases fatalities.

Important OSHA Rules

OSHA 1910.243(a)(1) addresses the safe use of portable circular saws. The following are some important things to note:

- Saws with a blade diameter over two inches are required to have a guard.
- Trigger switches are required to release the throttle when released. No constant on.



Safe Handling Procedures:

- Always utilize the appropriate personal protective equipment. This includes safety glasses, face shields and hearing protection. In the case of dust producing media, respiratory protection should also be utilized.
- Do not wear loose clothing, jewelry or dangling objects. These can all become trapped in the rotating blade and spindle.
- Do not utilize the saw if it is too heavy for you to effectively control.
- Be sure that the equipment is in good condition. Throttle triggers should activate and release when the trigger is released.
- Never utilize dull blades or severely worn abrasive blades. These blades can cause kickback, binding and stalling.
- Use the correct blade for the correct action.
- Ensure all safety features are functional including guards!
- Avoid ever operating a saw with one hand. Powered saws should be operated with two hands.
- Always cut on stable surfaces. Never hold or balance material to be cut.

TAG ANY FAULTY EQUIPMENT THAT REQUIRES REPAIR AND ENSURE IT IS NOT USED