

# SAFETY AWARENESS

*Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates*

**2024**

## Hand and Power Tools

Hand and power tools are a common part of our everyday lives and are present in nearly every industry. However, these simple tools can be hazardous and have the potential for causing severe injuries when used or maintained improperly. The employer is responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by Associates, but the Associates have the responsibility for properly using and maintaining tools.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Use the right tool for the job. Match the tool to the task.
- Examine all tools for damage before each use. Inspect power cords. If damage is found, take the tool out of service and report the condition to your supervisor.
- Read the tool's instruction manual, and follow use and maintenance guidelines.
- All power tools shall have a 3-prong grounded plug or be double-insulated. All power tools shall be UL listed.
- Make sure all safety guards and devices are in place.
- Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. Safety glasses and gloves should be worn while operating most power tools. Other PPE may also be necessary.
- Avoid using power tools in wet or damp environments. Utilize a GFCI when necessary.
- Unplug tools before installing, adjusting and changing any accessory or attachment.
- Maintain solid footing and good balance when using tools. Hold or brace the tool securely. Be aware of your surrounding environment.
- Ensure power tool accessories are specific for the tool it's to be used with.

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Keep fingers away from saw blades. Clamp materials down and keep all guards in place.
- Do not use compressed air to clean people.
- All hand grinders must be used with the guards and handles in place.
- Impact tools, such as drift pins, wedges, and chisels, shall be kept free of mushroomed heads.
- The wooden handles of tools shall be kept free of splinters or cracks.
- Before an abrasive wheel is mounted, it should be inspected closely to be sure that it is free from cracks or defects.
- Where flammable atmospheres exist, spark-resistant tools made from brass, plastic, aluminum, or wood will prevent ignition sources.

### **TRAINING**

All users of hand and power tools must receive initial training on how to safely operate the tool.

