

# GAP Tool Box Talk: Power Tools



# Purpose

The purpose of this talk is to provide you with some precautions which can be taken to prevent accidents taking place

Power tools can driven by:

- Electricity
- Air
- Fuel
- Explosive cartridges



Safe operation by trained persons and regular maintenance help to reduce the risks of accidents injury. PPE should be used as required

# Power Tools & PPE

Operators of power tools should be aware of all aspects of safety and be trained in the use of appropriate PPE

This will safeguard their health and safety and minimise the risk of injury

PPE such as the following should be considered:

- Hard hat
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Ear defenders
- Safety footwear



# Electrical Power Tools

Prior to use:

- Ensure that the tool is in good state of repair and shows the 'CE' marking
- Check that the tool is of the correct voltage (usually 110V) and that an 'RCD' is used for additional protection
- Ensure that the plug is of the correct type, undamaged and securely clamped to the cable
- Always check the cable for cuts, splits or any other damage
- Always ensure that the guards are in place, should they be fitted
- Report any damage and do not use until the repairs have been carried out
- During use, other hazards may arise and the user should assess these prior to use

## During use of power tools

- Try and avoid damage to the supply cable by protecting it from sharp edges and objects
- Do not carry the tool by the cable
- Where possible keep the cable clear of the ground to avoid damage i.e. impact, crushing from plant or vehicles and to avoid a trip hazard
- Do not carry out 'makeshift' repairs
- All repairs should be carried out by qualified fitters/electricians
- Do not allow tools to become wet
- Ensure they are checked prior to use again by an electrician
- Don't use blunt, worn or damaged bits and accessories

## Fuel-driven engines

Power tools may be driven by petrol or diesel engines and precautions should be observed when refuelling

- Containers should be sound and leak proof, clearly marked and have a secure cap
- Refuel only in well-ventilated areas
- Wipe off spilt fuel and replace cap securely
- No smoking or naked flames
- Where practical, refuelling should not occur next to a work place

## Toxic fumes can be generated while an engine is running

- Do not operate engines in confined spaces that have poor ventilation

# Cartridge operated tools

- Cartridge operated tools provide a fast and effective way of fixing a wide variety of materials e.g.; wood, concrete or steel
- These tools are powered by an explosive charge and are **DANGEROUS** if the correct methods and procedures are not followed
- Operators should:
  - be 18 years of age or older
  - not suffer from colour blindness (colour cartridges used to determine strength)
  - have received full training in the use of the tool
  - have control of the cartridges
  - account for cartridges issued
  - ensure unused and misfired cartridges are returned
- Manufacturer's operating instructions should be followed at all times
- **ALWAYS REMEMBER CARTRIDGE TOOLS IN UNTRAINED HANDS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY TO THE OPERATOR AND OTHERS**

# REGULATIONS

Regulations that should be considered are:

- The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989