

>> TOOLBOX TALK - Nail Guns

Explain Dangers

Nail guns make fast work but they can cause significant injuries if not used as per manufacturer's instructions.

While puncture wounds to the extremities such as hands and feet are the most common, puncture wounds to places like the head or neck can cause more severe injuries and result in death. Injuries to co-workers can occur if the nail gun is pointed or waved in their direction.

Nail guns can be powered by compressed air or be powder actuated (i.e., a controlled explosion created by a small chemical propellant charge, similar to the process that discharges a firearm). Both models can be deadly if mishandled so specific training is required for both.

Identify Controls

There are two types of nail guns commonly used in construction:

Contact Trip Triggers - which allow the user to fire the tool at any time the trigger and the nose of the gun — the contact element — are both depressed. This enables “bump nailing:” When the operator depresses the trigger, and bumps the nose of the nail gun against a surface, the gun will fire.

Sequential triggers - which requires the nose of the gun be depressed before the trigger is pulled, which helps prevent an accidental discharge of nails. Prior to another nail being fired, the user must release the trigger and remove the nose of the gun from the work area and repeat the sequence. If the job requires more accurate “nail placing”, this is the right tool for the job.

Sequential-trip triggers are much safer than contact trip triggers, which can fire accidentally if the nail gun recoils or the operator bumps against a surface or co-worker.

Good Work Practices to Help Prevent Injuries

- Always wear the proper personal protective equipment—including eye protection—when you are using the nail gun.
- Always keep your hands and fingers off the trigger

when you are not using the gun. Never carry the gun with your finger on the trigger.

- Before doing any sort of maintenance on your nail gun, whether reloading it or clearing a jam, disconnect it from its air source or remove the cartridge.
- Keep your hand and fingers well away from the nail's path. Use clamps if necessary.
- Never point the gun at another person or yourself.
- When you're not using the gun, engage the trigger safety device or disconnect the gun from its power source.
- Never modify safety features, such as tying or wiring the nose contact in the activated position.
- Never allow people who have not been trained to operate a nail gun.
- Always use the proper type of nails in the gun.
- Never overextend your reach when you are using the gun. Hold it firmly in your hand.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect the nail gun prior to each use to ensure all safety devices are working properly as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Demonstrate & Discuss Proper Use

Note:

The Newfoundland and Labrador Health and Safety Regulations 2012, Section 111 - Pneumatic nailing and stapling tools specifies: that the operator perform two actions, one of which is to place the tool against the work surface; that the trigger shall not be secured or held in the “on” position while moving between operations; and that the air supply is to be disconnected before servicing. Refer to the Regulations for more information.



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TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: _____ Project: _____

Supervisor: _____ No. in Crew: _____ No. Attending: _____

Review Last Meeting:

	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):	
Suggestions Offered:	
Action(s) to be Taken:	
Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:	

Supervisor's Remarks: _____

Signature: _____