



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Handle Tools Safety Message

Many workers routinely use hand tools and don't think of them as dangerous, but accidents continue to occur. Hand tools include hammers, screwdrivers, saws, wrenches, cutters, tape measures, sledge hammers, cat's paws, chisels, punches, pipe wrenches, pliers, and planes, just to name a few. Each tool is designed to do a specific task. The greatest hazards posed by a hand tool are from their misuse or improper maintenance. It's up to you to select the right tool for the job and to use and care for it properly.

Remember to wear personal protective equipment when using certain tools. Wear hearing protection when using power saws, drills or other noise-generating tools. If a task involves getting close to pointed objects or branches - like when pruning- or if work could possibly generate flying objects or dust, protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses with side shields or safety goggles. When gloves are necessary, make sure they fit properly. Gloves that are too loose, tight or bulky could contribute to hand fatigue or injury.

As the tool handler, think of your safety first, but also be aware of others around you when using tool, so you don't involve them in an accident. If you have any question about the use, condition or care of a tool, talk to your supervisor.