



Toolbox Talk: Powder Actuated Tools

Basic knowledge to avoid serious injury

Powder-actuated tools operate like a loaded gun and should be treated with the same respect and precautions. While they are designed with safety in mind, they are potentially very dangerous and must be operated by properly trained employees who are equipped with all necessary PPE to protect against potential risks.

Before Using

- Test powder actuated tools each day before loading to insure that the safety devices are in proper working condition. Any tool found not to be in proper working order shall be immediately removed from service until repairs are made.
- Inspect a tool before use to determine that it is clean, that all moving parts operate freely and that the barrel is free from obstructions.
- Conduct a thorough study of each job site. Know the types of materials you'll be driving into so you can select the proper stud and cartridge. Also know what is on the other side of a wall and what is inside it, such as electric wires, pipes or wire chasers.

Using the Tool

Do:

- Do hold the tool perpendicular to the work surface.
- Do use tools with the type of shield or muzzle guard appropriate for a particular use.
- Do wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as eye and hearing protection, when using powder actuated fastening tools.
- Do load immediately before firing only. Never carry a loaded tool from on job to another.

Do Not:

- Do not point the tool, whether loaded or not, at any person.
- Do not load the tool until just prior to the intended firing time.
- Do not leave tools or powder charges unattended in places where they would be available to unauthorized persons.
- Do not use a powder actuated tool in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.
- Do not drive fasteners into very hard or brittle materials such as cast iron, glazed tile, surfaced hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick or hollow tile.
- Do not drive fasteners into soft materials unless such materials are backed by a substance that will prevent the pin or fastener from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the opposite side.
- Do not drive fasteners into an existing hole unless a positive guide is used to secure accurate alignment.



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- Do not attempt to drive a fastener into a spralled area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening.

Jams and Misfires

- Never attempt to release a loaded tool that has jammed in the firing position. Place it in a safe place and check the manufacturer’s manual.
- If a misfire occurs, hold the tool against the work surface for 15 to 30 seconds. Do not remove the tool from the work surface when opening the tool and removing the defective load. Check the manufacturer’s recommendations for disposal instructions in case of a misfire.

Review Questions:

- 1) Employees must be properly trained by a competent person before they are permitted to use a powder actuated tool.

A) True

B) False

- 2) What will you do if a tool is found to be in non-working order?

A) Make the necessary repairs and then try again.

B) Immediately remove the tool from service until repairs have been made.

C) Try a couple more test rounds first.

- 3) It is acceptable to drive a fastener into cast iron.

A) True

B) False: Do not drive fasteners into hard or brittle material. Additional examples of these materials are listed above.

Talk Given By: _____ **Date:** _____

Company: _____ **Location:** _____

Printed Name	Signature