5 Basic Rules for Hand & Power Tools

Tools are so commonplace in our lives that we often forget they may pose a risk when damaged or used differently than their intended design. Everyone should be trained in the proper use of common tools in the work environment. Being able to recognize hazards associated with several types of tools and the safety precautions necessary to mitigate exposure.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA’s) hand and portable powered tools and other hand-held equipment rules (29 CFR 1910.243 Subpart P) requires employees and employers to establish procedures and safeguards associated with hand and portable power tools.

The following are some tips from the National Grain & Feed Association.

Five basic safety rules can help prevent hazards associated with the use of hand and power tools:
1. Keep all hand tools in good condition with routine maintenance
2. Use the right tool for the job and within its intended purpose of design
3. Examine each tool for damage prior to use and never use if damaged
4. Operate tools within the manufacturer’s guidance
5. Provide and use properly the correct personal protection equipment associated with the task.

Power Tools: Best Practices
Before using any power tool, it is crucial to read and follow all safety precautions found in the owner’s manual for the tool. OSHA’s publication 3080 Hand and Power Tools (2002) provides these general guidelines for safe power tool use:
• Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
• Never yank the cord or hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
• Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.

Final Addition of the CALS - Safety “Kohn” Standard

Starting November 1, 2022, I will begin a new chapter in my life by transferring back to the UW-Madison, College of Engineering as the Director of Safety.

I would like to thank everyone that supported the safety program during my tenure in CALS. The past 15 months with the college have been fulfilling and enjoyable.

Best of luck to everyone in CALS and STAY SAFE.
Thomas Kohn, CALS Safety Coordinator

The National Sleep Foundation holds Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (DDPW) each year the week following the end of Daylight-Saving Time.

The goal of this annual campaign is to reduce the number of drivers who drive while sleep deprived. Drowsy driving is responsible for more than 6,400 U.S. deaths annually. Fall-asleep crashes are often caused by voluntarily not getting the sleep you need.

NFS encourages everyone to prioritize sleep and drive when alert and refreshed.

Worker Protection Standard (WPS)
training is required annually for any personnel that may be exposed to pesticides in the fields or greenhouses. If you need WPS training, please contact Walnut Greenhouse staff or ARS Superintendent of location you’ll be working at.