

## Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety

*(Adapted from [www.osha.gov/Publications/nail-gun.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/nail-gun.html))*

*Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).*

### 1. Overview:

Pneumatic tools, aka nail guns or staple guns, as their names imply, use pneumatic energy (air pressure) to drive nails and staples into materials. Serious injuries or fatalities can result from improper use including unintentional discharge.

### 2. Hazards:

The operator and coworkers are at risk. Eyes, hands, and fingers are especially at risk.

Nails can:

- Splinter or blow out fragments from the material.
- Puncture through the back of the material and into what is behind it.
- Fire completely through the material and strike workers behind the material.
- Pose other hazards, such as nails striking electrical wires.

### 3. Two Common Nail Gun Tool Types:

- **Sequential tools:** This type of tool requires a two-step process before the nail is released from the gun and into the material. First the nail gun's nose must be firmly depressed and held on a material's surface and then and only then can the trigger be depressed to actuate the tool.
  - This two-step sequence makes accidental firing less likely.
  - Can be used for most nailing tasks.
- **Contact tools:** This type of tool fires anytime the trigger is depressed and the nail gun's nose makes contact with the workpiece simultaneously.
  - Trigger can be held down to allow "bump firing."
  - Use for nailing on flat surfaces. CAUTION: If trigger is depressed, the tool will fire anytime the nose is depressed; can also cause unwanted double firing of nails.

### 4. Safe Work Practices and PPE:

- Follow manufacturer's tool labels and operating manual requirements.
- Follow employer's training and operating requirements.
- Inspect air hoses and air fittings prior to each use. Do not use if damaged.
- Maintain hoses so that they do not pose a tripping hazard.
- To avoid the potential for repetitive motion injuries for tasks requiring frequent repetitive use of a nail gun, the nail gun should be mounted onto an overhead tool balancing system.
- Never use a tool that is malfunctioning or is missing any safeguards.
- Wear safety glasses with side shields. Wear hearing protection.
- Never override or modify any nail gun safety features.
- Do not lift or otherwise move a nail gun by the air hose.

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- To avoid an unintentional discharge, keep fingers off the trigger unless you are intending to discharge a nail into a workpiece.
- Use sequential tools where feasible as they have reduced risk of accidental firing.
- Ensure off-hand and other body parts are out of the line of fire.
- Never point a nail gun at a person for any reason.
- Never drive a nail into a workpiece or surface unless you know for certain there are no hidden hazards behind it.
- Always disconnect the gun to perform maintenance, when moving to another work area, or for clearing jams.
- Always point the nail gun in safe direction including during transport, maintenance and clearing jams.
- Store nail gun with the air source removed and in a safe place to prevent an unintentional discharge.

## 5. Discussion:

- Review your company policy regarding nail guns.
- Who is trained and authorized to use a nail gun?

## 6. RECAP/REVIEW:

- Review any site accidents involving nail guns.
- What steps can you take to prevent injury or death when operating a nail gun?

## 7. Reminder:

- Safety is the responsibility of both management and employees!

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ and the topic will be \_\_\_\_\_.

## Take Exam / Review Results

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