



POWDER-ACTUATED TOOL SAFETY

Tool Box Talk



When used properly, powder-actuated tools are very effective and increase productivity by utilizing a small, controlled burst to drive a specialized nail, stud, or other fastener into solid base materials like steel, concrete, or masonry. Choose safety and minimize risks associated with powder-actuated tool use by increasing user safety awareness and participating in training programs provided by tool manufacturers.

General handling:

- Clean and maintain tools according to the manufacturers' instructions
- Only individuals trained in the safe use of a powder-actuated fastening tool should use equipment
- Only load cartridges into the tool just prior to firing
- Always remove the cartridges whenever the powder-actuated tool is not in use, being transported or stored, and before performing any maintenance or repair on the tool

Tool operation:

- Inspect tool for damage and check that tool operates properly (DO NOT operate the tool if parts are damaged or does not operate properly)
- ENSURE THE BARREL IS NEVER POINTED TOWARDS A PERSON
- Do not operate in areas congested with people
- Use proper ANSI Z87.1+ eye protection
- Use hearing protection when driving fasteners in enclosed areas
- Hold the tool perpendicular to the work surface when fastening
- Clear the area of personnel on the opposite side of the work surface

Maintenance and storage:

- Tool should be cleaned in accordance with manufacturer's instruction
- Remove cartridges and nails prior to cleaning and storage
- The ventilation slots must be unobstructed and kept clean at all times
- Do not disassemble the tool while it is hot
- The cartridges and unloaded tool should be stored in their box or case

General safety practices are addressed: read the tool operator's manual for complete information



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