



Nail Gun Safety

What this Toolbox Talk Covers:

- ✓ The “Dos” and “Don’ts” of nail gun safety.

Discussion Leader Duties:

- ✓ Demonstrate the proper way to use nail guns covering hand placement, ricochets, recoil, fastening studs, clearing jams, lubrication and reporting malfunctioning equipment.

Discussion Notes:

- ✓ Discuss the outcomes of the “Do’s” and “Don’ts”

- Do**
- Make sure the nail gun, air hose, hose fittings and compressor work properly.
 - Be alert and aware of your surroundings. Make sure coworkers are clear of nailing area.
 - Keep free hand not holding gun away from nailing location by at least 12 inches.
 - Know where studs or joists are when shooting plywood or OSB (Oscillating Spring Board).
 - Avoid nailing into knots, metal and other dense material to prevent ricochets.
 - Report defective and malfunctioning equipment. Tag it, and take it out of service.
 - Wear proper protective gear including hard hats, eye protection, hearing protection and safety shoes.

- Don’t**
- Point gun towards yourself or others.
 - Press the trigger unless the nose of the gun is firmly pressed against the work material.
 - Hold and walk around with your finger on the trigger.
 - Clean, clear jams or adjust a nail gun when it is connected to the air supply.
 - Remove or bypass safety devices, triggers or contact springs.

Discussion questions:

1. What are the hazards of using nail guns?
2. What is nail gun recoil?
3. Why should personal protective equipment be worn?
4. What is the first step an employee should take when clearing a jam?

Meeting note:

Employee comments/concerns: _____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: _____

Training record:	Date: _____	Jobsite/Facility: _____	
	Trainer: _____	Title: _____	
Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/
_____	/	_____	/

(Continue recording signatures on a separate sheet of paper)

Employee Quiz is provided on last page. Answers are: 1. (d), 2. (a), 3. (b), 4. (d), 5. (d)



Nail Gun Safety

Hazards include:

Puncture wounds to hands and fingers, debris, ricochets and accidental nail discharge

Smart Safety Rules

- Understand hazards. Nail guns are responsible for 37,000 emergency room visits annually.
- Always wear appropriate protective gear.
- Ensure that all equipment is working properly.
- Never clean, clear jams or adjust a nail gun when connected to an air supply.
- Do not press the trigger unless the nose of the gun is firmly pressed against work material.
- Check lumber surfaces before nailing for knots, straps, hangers and anything else that could cause recoil or ricochet.
- Use a hammer if you cannot reach the work with a nail gun in your dominant hand.



Employee Quiz

Topic: Nail Gun Safety

Employee Name: _____

Circle the correct answer below.

- Nail guns are responsible for _____ emergency room visits every year.
 - 37
 - 370
 - 3,700
 - 37,000
 - 3,700,000
- Before attempting to clear jams, clean equipment or adjust a nail gun, workers should disconnect the air supply.
 - True
 - False
- If unable to reach work material with your dominant hand, it is appropriate to use a nail gun with your non-dominant hand.
 - True
 - False
- What is the preferred minimum distance your free hand should be from the nailing area?
 - 1 inch
 - 3 inches
 - 6 inches
 - 12 inches
- Which of these may cause recoil or ricochet?
 - Knots
 - Straps
 - Hangers
 - All of the above

Training record: Date: _____ Jobsite/Facility: _____
Trainer: _____ Title: _____