

# Safety Clips

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AMCA Supporting its Association Safety Plan

## Arizona Masonry Contractors Association

### Hand & Power Tool Safety 101

Provided by John Soza  
Director, Business Development  
[CST Risk Management](#)



Hand and Power Tools are essential pieces of equipment for construction workers in getting a job done. At the same time, hand and portable power tools can be one of the biggest hazards your employees may encounter and can cause serious injury if not used and maintained properly.

There are three major causes associated with hand and power tool injuries which are 1) inattention through repetition, 2) an unexpected event, and 3) inexperience or over confidence. Therefore, it is important that all hand and power tools, whether furnished by the employer or the employee, be maintained in a safe condition, unsafe hand and power tools should not be used, and the appropriate training should be given to all users of such equipment.

Here are the top 10 safety precautions to follow:

1. Inspect and examine each tool for damage prior to use.
2. Use the right tool for the job and operate hand and power tools according to manufacturer's guidelines.
3. Use the appropriate PPE and follow manufacturer's warning labels.
4. Impact tools such as wedges, chisels, form pins, etc. should not be used when mushrooming occurs.
5. Tools with wooden handles should be kept free from splinters or cracks and should be kept tight in the tool.

6. Electrical power tools should either be double insulated or grounded, and grounding pins should not be missing or removed.
7. Cords must be in good condition with no cuts or damage to the insulation, and should not be used to raise or lower tools and objects.
8. Do not remove or modify safety guards and switches which must be in good working condition.
9. Only certified and trained employees are permitted to use powder actuated tools.
10. Compressed air should not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than 30 p.s.i. and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment utilized.

AMCA's Safety Committee is committed to providing support in your efforts to keep your employees safe and healthy. Safety Clips can be used in any number of ways: toolbox training sessions, company newsletter article or used as an opener for discussions in manager/supervisor's meetings, etc. Safety Clips is a means to keep safety topics fresh and in the forefront of your busy days and to make it easier for you to turn around and share with others in your company. If there are additional email addresses you'd like to add to the distribution list forward them to [lori@azmasonry.net](mailto:lori@azmasonry.net).