

Toolbox Talk

56. Power Tools



What?

- A power tool is a machine powered by an electric motor, compressed air motor or internal combustion engine or propelled directly by fuel or other materials
- Power tools are either fixed such as turning lathes, band saws or pedestal drills where the work is taken to the machine, or portable such as chipping hammers, hand held drills etc where the tool is taken to the work piece



Why?

- Power tools by their very nature harness power and therefore if used incorrectly can inflict serious injury. They can also be noisy and vibrate and when operated over a long period can cause noise induced hearing loss or vibration white finger if appropriate precautions are not taken
- The greatest risks posed by power tools result from misuse and improper maintenance. Most tools come with safeguards such as adjustable guards, screens and safe handholds and it is extremely important to check these are in place and working properly before starting the tool

Do



- ✓ Wear correct PPE (eye protection etc)
- ✓ Ensure tool is inspected, tested, and in good working order before use
- ✓ Check for defects
- ✓ Only use for its intended purpose
- ✓ Select the right tool for the job
- ✓ Get a good grip and stance before use
- ✓ Check guards are fitted and used



Don't



- ✗ Leave cables or hose where people can trip over them
- ✗ Use in areas with flammable vapours present (unless they are designed for that purpose)
- ✗ Adjust the tool without first disconnecting from the power source
- ✗ Use damaged or defective tools



Document Name	TBT 56 Power Tools	Document No	FM/HS/TBT/058
Document Owner	Stuart Care	Date of Issue	13/01/2017
Classification	Internal Use	Version No	01