

## TOOLBOX TALK #11

### WOODWORKING SAFETY

According to OSHA, common injuries suffered by workers operating woodworking equipment include laceration, amputation, severed fingers and blindness. Employees working with circular saws and other woodworking tools should always use proper equipment and techniques to avoid accidents and injuries.



Before beginning work with a woodworking tool, OSHA recommends:

- Ensure only properly trained workers operate machinery.
  - Use the proper blade required for the cutting action. For example, do not use a crosscut blade for ripping.
  - Inspect equipment and guards frequently, checking that guards are in place and in proper working condition.
  - Operate the saw at the speed specified by the manufacturer.
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- Stand to the side of the saw blade to avoid injury due to kickback.
  - Avoid crosscutting long boards on table saws. Considerable hand pressure is required close to the saw blade, and the boards create a safety hazard to other people.
  - Leave sufficient clearance for stock.
  - Use a brush or stick to clean sawdust from the machine – never clean a machine with your hand or while it is running.
  - Never leave a machine unattended while it is on.
  - Do not wear loose clothes or leave long hair unrestrained when working, as these could easily get caught in rotating parts of the machine.
  - Be sure machines undergo regular preventive maintenance and cleaning. Remove cracked saw blades from service immediately.
  - Maintain proper housekeeping around machines to prevent slips and trips and encounters with the blade.
  - Never saw free hand, as this increases the chance of an operator's hand becoming caught in the blade. Always hold the stock against a gauge or fence.