

SAFE WORK PRACTICES HAND HELD CIRCULAR SAWS

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: This type of powered hand tool is one of the most commonly used. Because of this common use, there are numerous accidents due to carelessness and thoughtless acts.

1. Know your equipment. Learn the operation, application and limitations as well as the specific and potential hazards of the equipment before operating it. Refer to the operation manual if necessary. ***You must be orientated by your supervisor before using this tool.***
2. Wear adequate PPE, and keep observers at a safe distance from the work area. Minimum PPE for this equipment is safety glasses and steel-toed boots. Check the MSDS before starting work for material specific hazards that could require other PPE.
3. Always ensure that there is adequate ventilation as hazardous fumes can be created under certain circumstances. Refer to MSDS.
4. The proper sharp blade designed for the work to be done must be selected and used.
5. The power supply must be disconnected before changing the blade.
6. Before the saw is set down, be sure the retracting guard has fully returned to its down position.
7. Both hands must be used to hold the saw while ripping.
8. Maintenance must be done according to the manufacturer's specifications.
9. Ensure all cords are clear of the cutting area before starting a cut.
10. Before cutting, check the stock for foreign objects or any other obstructions which could cause the saw to "kick back".
11. When ripping, make sure that the stock is held securely in place. Use a wedge to keep the stock from closing and causing the saw to bind.
12. When you are finished with the saw, make sure that it is stored in a safe and secure location.