

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

PLIERS

**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: Pliers are made in various shapes and sizes and for many uses. Use the correct pliers for the job. (Refer to "General Safe Hand Tool Operation" for general safe guards).

1. Wear safety glasses or a face shield.
2. Cut at right angles. **NEVER** rock from side to side or bend wire back and forth against cutting edges.
3. Choose pliers that have a grip span of 6-9 cm (2 ½ – 3 ½ in).
4. Choose tools with sufficient space between the handles to prevent your palm or fingers from being pinched.
5. Pull on the pliers; do not push.
6. Oil pliers regularly. A drop of oil on the hinge will make the pliers easier to use.

DON'T:

- Cut hardened wire unless pliers are specifically manufactured for this purpose.
- Expose pliers to excessive heat.
- Bend stiff wire with light pliers. Needle nose pliers can be damaged by using the tips to bend large wire. Use a sturdier tool.
- Use pliers as a hammer.
- Hammer on pliers to cut wire or bolts.
- Extend the length of handles to gain greater leverage. Use a larger pair of pliers or a bolt cutter.
- Use cushion grip handles for jobs requiring insulated handles. Cushion grips are primarily for comfort and do not protect against electric shock.
- Use pliers on nuts and bolts; use a wrench.