

MAFES Dawg Tracks



April 7, 2008 *Safe Tips: Shop Appliance Safety*



Safety in the shop cannot be stressed too much. Sometimes it is necessary for folks to assist when something needs repairing in a hurry, and they know what to do. So with this in mind, I feel that emphasis on shop safety cannot be oversold. Following are some areas with “heads up” ideas to help us maintain safety in the shop and maybe save someone from an injury. It would be a good idea to reprint these tips and post them over or by the side of each of the appliances that we discuss:

BENCH GRINDER:

As with any shop appliance, an orientation of “how to operate” should occur before a new employee is allowed to use the grinder.

~ **Wear eye Protection** – Either goggles or a full face shield.

~ **Tool rests** should be as close to wheel and brush as possible without touching them (Regulations say 1/8 the space between the tool rest and the rock or brush (tolerance is +1/8, - 0.)

~ **Installing a new wheel** – After installing a new wheel, stand by the side and let it run for a minute before using it. (A check to see that the wheel is acceptable, not cracked or out of round.)

~ **Side grinding** – Do not grind on the side of the wheel. It is possible that this could cause the wheel to break.

~ **Fingers close to the wheel** – Keep naked fingers away from the wheel. If you are grinding small pieces, use pliers for holding the material in place.

~ **Keep stones dressed and true** – A shiny surface indicates a dull wheel. Also, vibrations signify that the wheel is out of round.

~ **Worn stones** – Do not use a stone that is worn down to 1/2 of its original diameter.

PORTABLE CIRCULAR SAW:

~ **Wear eye protection** – Safety glasses with side visors, goggles or face shield.

~ **Use only sharp blades** – Cutting quality is more consistent and the job will go faster.

~ **Power cords** – Check the location of the power cord so that it isn't in the path

~ **Hand safety** – Use both hands when sawing and use a “push stick” for extra protection when you can.

~ **Small pieces** – When cutting small pieces, use both hands and use the “push stick” when it is practical.

~ **Guards** – Make sure that the guard has the blade covered before you lay the saw down and that the spring loading retraction device is in good condition.

~ **Unplugging the saw** – Make sure that you unplug the saw before changing the blade or making adjustments.

~ **Ports** – Keep the ports open to prevent the saw from overheating.

~ **Saw support** – Always avoid using your leg to support a piece of lumber or your knee when sawing. Leg cuts are very common injuries with portable saws.

ACETYLENE WELDER:

No employee without an orientation on proper use, etc. should use the acetylene welder.

~ **Lenses specs.** – Use proper shade lenses with your goggles or helmet.

~ **Metal temperature** – Assume that all metal is HOT in this area.

~ **Flammable liquids** – Keep oil and grease away from oxygen cylinders and equipment. Oil or grease burns violently in the presence of oxygen

~ **Combustible materials** – Keep the area clear of combustible materials.

~ **Leaks** – Test all connections frequently for leaks. Soapy water is good for making these checks.

~ **Valve opening** – Stand to the side of the cylinders when opening the valves.

~ **Lighting the torch** – Never use a match to light the torch.

~ **Unattended torch** – Avoid walking with a lit torch, laying a torch down or leave a lighted torch unattended.

~ **Valve adjustments** – Only open the acetylene valve 1 to 1-1/4 turns and leave the shut-off wrench in position at all times, in case it has to be turned off quickly in an emergency.

~ **Galvanized metal** – When cutting or welding be sure to have good ventilation, especially with galvanized materials, as it will produce poisonous fumes.

~ **Welding or cutting enclosed containers** – Before welding or cutting a container that has held flammable materials, it should be steam-cleaned and filled with water.

ARC WELDER:

~ **Shade lenses** – Use shade lenses #10 to 12 for Arc welding.

~ **Wear protective clothing** – Helmet, gloves, apron, good leather shoes, etc.

~ **Material temperature** – Assume that all materials are hot.

~ **Environmental conditions** – Avoid standing in wet areas if you are wet or if the welder should have loose connections. Both situations are conducive to an electrical shock.

~ **Lead paint** – Welding galvanized metal or painted surfaces with lead based paint will produce poisonous fumes.

~ **Enclosed containers** – As in acetylene, when welding enclosed containers that hold flammable liquid, steam-clean and fill with water before you start a project.

~ **Electrode stubs** – Do not throw electrode stubs on the floor as they become a slip hazard.

~ **Personnel** – Clear the welding area of bystanders before striking the arc.

REPLACE THE SAW GUARD-
IT'S EASIER THAN REPLACING
A Finger!!