Wrenches

Wrenches—a very good name for this tool in that all too often it is the condition of a worker’s back after misusing a wrench. (Wrenched back, get it?) It is not only a back that can be injured, as we will see after our discussion.

Guide for Discussion

Proper Care

Inspect on a regular basis
Replace sprung jaws, cages and faces
Replace all bent handles
Keep the jaws sharp
Keep the wrench clean and free of grease and oil.

Proper Use

Always use the proper size wrench for the job.
Never use a shim to make a wrong size wrench fit a nut.
Never use a piece of pipe on the handle to increase your leverage. (Slip hazard.)
Don’t use a wrench as a substitute for a hammer.
Don’t pound on a wrench to try to loosen a frozen bolt. Use penetrating oil.
Always pull a wrench toward you—never push away. (Slip hazard.)
See that the wrench jaws are sharp and can bite the nut.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Avoid possible falls – be sure you have firm footing.
Using a wrench on moving equipment? Never.

Remember: After you have several banged up knuckles or a busted finger because of improper use of a wrench, you have learned the hard way that a wrench is dangerous. Bottom line: If you use a wrench improperly, it can cause painful injuries.

Attendee’s:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don’t hesitate to contact your Employer.