

Powder Actuated Tools

Powder actuated tools are nothing more than a gun that fires a stud into a wall. As such, the safety rules that apply to firearm safety should almost always apply to the use of powder actuated tools. No one will be allowed to operate a powder actuated tool without proper training. The rules discussed today are not intended to be a complete set, but serve as a reminder and a starter.

Guide for Discussion

Hazard Examples

- Flying particles
- Studs being shot through the work area
- Studs ricocheting
- Fire hazards
- Interchanging tool charges with firearm charges

Basic General Safety Rules

Allow only qualified workers trained and have on their person a qualified operator card for operating powder activated tools. See WAC 296-24-66321.

- Inspect the tool before each use.
- Test the tool before each use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's specifications for operation.
- Always study and determine the proper charge.
- Know what is on the other side of the work surface.
- Know what is on the work surface.
- Don't allow other workers on the other side of the work surface.
- Know what can't be shot into, such as cast iron, high carbon steel, armor plate, glazed brick, glass, or tile. See manufacturer's instructions.
- Load just prior to shooting.
- Always wear eye protection.
- Store the tools, charges and studs safely and securely.
- Don't try to fix jams and misfires.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember: The example's of hazards and basic general safety rules we discussed is only a partial listing. It is not a substitute for formal training. Powder actuated tools in the wrong or unqualified hands can be as deadly as any firearm. Use extreme caution when you are using or are around a powder actuated tool.

Attendees:

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.