

WALSH SAFETY HUDDLE #35 – Rotary Hammers/Hammer Drills

❖ INTRODUCTION

- As namesake indicates; a rotary drill with hammering action. Used for quicker/less effort drilling.
- Lower power units are known as hammer drills, higher power units are called rotary hammers.

❖ WORK AREA PREPARATIONS

- Adequate lighting in area of work
- Clean deck for adequate footing
- Keep cords out of water and away from walkways (trip hazards)

❖ PERSONAL PREPARATIONS (PPE)

- Limit wearing loose clothing/jewelry
- Mandatory PPE
 - Hardhat
 - Glasses
 - Gloves-cut resistant
 - Faceshield (Larger operations on vertical surfaces)
 - Hearing protection
 - Meta-tarsal guards (Larger operations at ground level)
- Protection from silica exposure
 - Use a half mask respirator with HEPA cartridges at minimum for:
 - Large scale/Long term operations
 - Closed/indoor environments

❖ ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Plug and cord
 - Double insulated tools have polarized plug (one wider blade). This is intended to fit in an outlet in only 1 manner, do not force/alter.
 - Grounded tools must have third prong in place.
- Hold tools by insulated gripping surfaces
 - Helps to prevent shock if electrical wire is hit in drilling surface or cord is accidentally drilled through.
- Avoid using in wet conditions.
- DO NOT use tools in hazardous/explosive atmospheres, electrical sparks can ignite atmosphere.
- Do not abuse cord
 - Not meant for hoisting device
 - Pull plug from outlets, don't jerk cord to remove.
 - Replace damaged cords/plugs immediately.
- Be sure tool is off prior to plugging it in to power source.
- Disconnect from power source in order to make adjustments/repairs to tool.

❖ SAFE USE TIPS

- Make sure tool is in proper working order
 - Check cord, trigger, listen/feel for out of ordinary operation
- Make sure surface/material being worked on is secure. Use clamping devices if necessary.
- Remove adjusting keys or wrenches before running tool.
- Do not force the tool. Hammering action should perform the work for you, if not, you're not using the right size tool!
- Always use the side grip to help grip/stabilize tool.
- Do not rig so tool can remain running without physical actuation.
- Keep hands off of bit when rotating or after use when it's hot!

❖ CONCLUSION

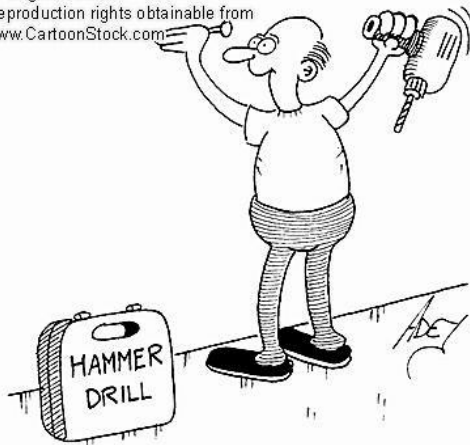
- Hammer Drills have come a long way with shock protection and slip clutch technology to prevent "spinning/twisting" hazards. There still is inherent dangers of any power tool, especially one with an unguardable bit that can catch body parts including hands that try to guide work from holding the bit. One small burr in that metal bit could cause serious hand injury, gloves or not.
- Respect the tools, safeguard yourself!

This training is intended to satisfy portions of 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2). Additional training should accommodate manufacturer specific issues.

Rotary Hammers/ Hammer Drills



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Where's
your PPE,
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Safety Huddle 35

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