

HAND TOOL SAFETY CHECKLIST #2

Knowing your crowbars, files, hooks, scrapers, and wrenches.

Many accidents and injuries can be avoided by keeping your tools in good condition and using them correctly. It is a good rule to inspect your tools before and after use, looking for defects that could cause an injury. Defective tools should be repaired or replaced promptly.

Preventing accidents can be easy

These tools seem common and easy to use. Unfortunately, people rarely review how to use them safely. Knowing how to operate your tools prevents accidents. How would your team answer the questions about these common hand tools?

Crowbars

- Is your crowbar the right size for prying? Do not try to increase leverage by using a length of pipe or iron bar.

Files

- Do you use a vise to secure the material being filed?
- Do you have secure footing before applying pressure?
- Do you clean the file with a file card? Steel particles may fly off if you strike it against another piece of metal.
- Is your file equipped with an approved handle?

Hooks & Scrapers

- Is the point of the hook kept sharp and protected when it is not in use?
- Are scrapers kept sharp and stored in special racks to protect their edges?

Wrenches

- Does the adjustable jaw face you when you place the wrench on a nut?
- Do you ever use a pipe wrench on nuts? This is not recommended. The corners of the nuts or bolts are likely to break the teeth of the wrench jaws, making it unsafe for future use.
- Is your wrench the right size for the job? The amount of leverage obtained with a wrench is the most it can handle. Never add more leverage with a length of pipe. Get a different wrench.

Thought Provokers

1. What other tools should we review?
2. Are broken tools quickly identified and promptly repaired or replaced?
3. Are there any specific points or problems you wish to discuss?