Hand tools injury prevention

What do the following pictures have in common?

They all involved hand tools, BUT the right procedures or best work methods were not always followed

RESULTING IN

THIS! **THIS!** **OR EVEN THIS!**

Hand tool injury prevention

Some real life accident causes

- Using the wrong sized spanners for the job.
- Attempting to lift too heavy weight
- Using a spanner or wrench as a hammer.
- Handling round objects leading to pinching, crushing
- Hammering on ring spanners.
- Over reaching to do a job and the spanner slipping.
- Flying objects from tools in bad condition.
- Tools falling from heights.

And many many more !

What is a hand tool injury prevention campaign?

A program to reduce incidents, including injuries related to working with our hands by:

- Improving our attitude and thus behavior
- Improving our awareness
- Understanding tool safety

What are hand tools?

Definition:

- An extension for our arms and hands
- Equipment designed to do the tasks our fingers cannot
- Something to make tasks easier and more efficient
- Something designed to speed up operations
- Any portable piece of equipment to assist our hands
- Something we would all be lost without if we did not have them!

THE STOP OBSERVATION CYCLE

Using the STOP system lets go on a STOP tour

Some real life pictures

Now look and discuss the procedures for the following pictures.

Give additional ideas to make them correct

incorrect

Better

If you saw practices like these, what would you do?

Hand tools injury prevention

So how can we make sure our hand tools are kept in the best possible condition?

- Visually checking before use.
- Using them for their intended purpose.
- Having the correct tools before starting a task.
- Cleaning them before and after use.
- Storing them in the correct container or rack.
- Discontinue using worn out hand tools. Replace them.

Hand tools injury prevention

Examples of Visual inspection

Ring spanners and open ended spanners.

Check to ensure that no **wear or distortion** is visible in spanner head and that spanner is a **good fit on the bolts Used**, the spanner **shaft should be straight**.

Pipe wrenches.

Check jaws are in **good condition with the teeth sharp** and not worn, worm gear should be a good fit with no cracks or visible defects.

Hand tools injury prevention

Examples of Visual inspection

Hammers.

Handles are **not cracked or split** and the **head is securely attached**. Make sure the handle is a sufficient length and the head has no cracks or pieces missing.

Chisels.

Make sure that the chisel head has not been damaged and is not mushroomed. The chisel blade is sharp and no visible defects are seen with no pieces missing.

Hand tool injury prevention

Some real examples

point

Incorrect use

Correct use

A high proportion of the finger and hand injuries sustained are from the wrong use of hammers.

The picture on the left resulted in an LTI.

Hand tool injury prevention

Air operated power tools

Drills, buffers, grinders, needle guns.

- Air line conditions
- Hose connections
- Safety pins / whip checks
- Safety release mechanism
- Correct equipment

Hand tool injury prevention

Electrically operated power tools

Additional hazards involved could cause electric shocks and even death

- Cable inspection
- Lock out switches
- Carrying tools
- Automatic shut downs
- Power supplies

Hand tool injury prevention

Power tools some examples

Remember

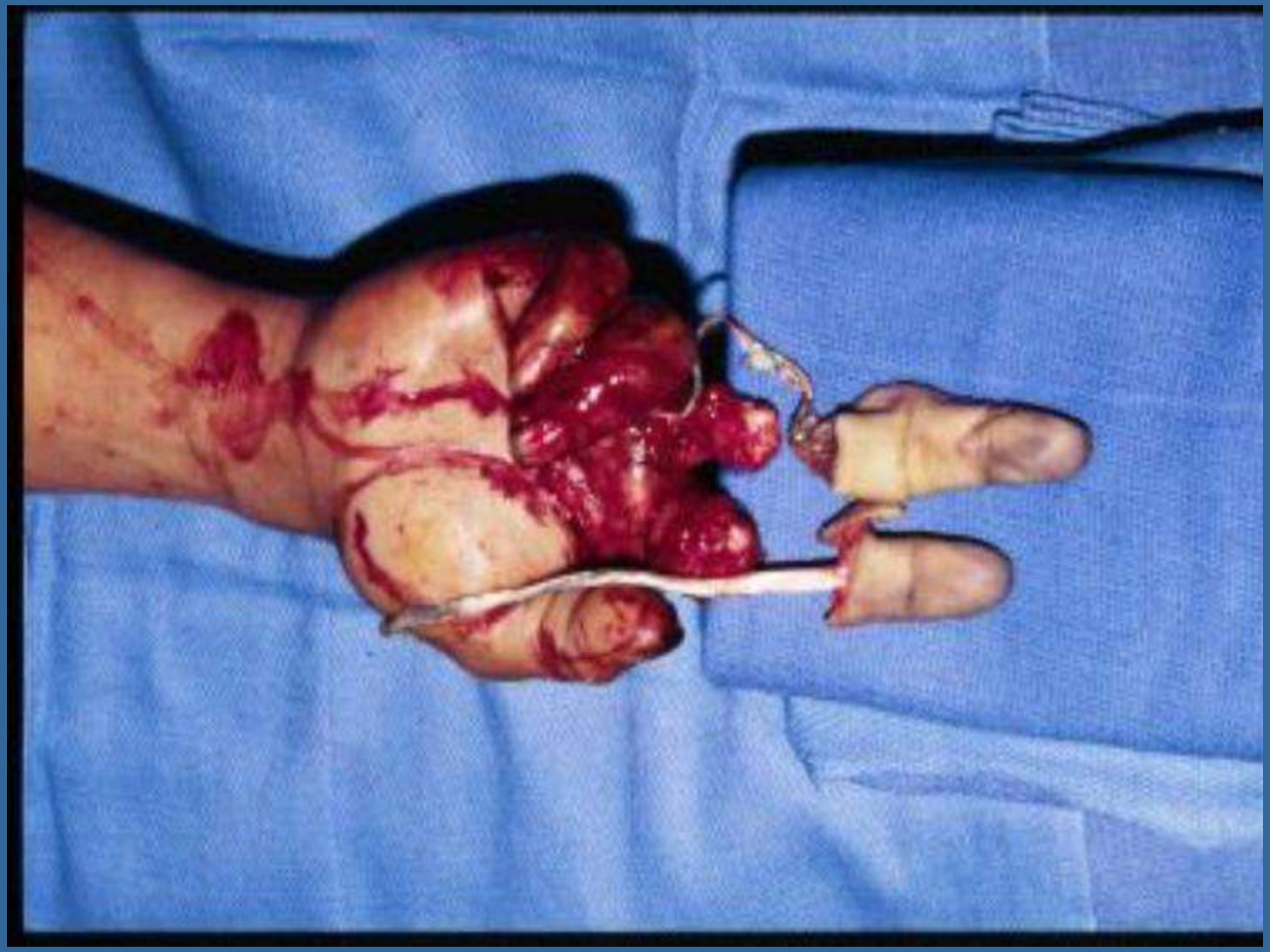
All these tools have the potential to cause serious injury or even death. Learn how they work be safe!

Summary

- Pre Planning
- Correct tools
- Tool conditions
- Tools at height
- Pinch points
- STOP

Remember

DO NO BECOME THESE PICTURES!



Final Note

With a little time and consideration we have the ability to reduce or eliminate a high proportion of these injuries,

Hand tools have been designed with a special purpose, use these tools as they have been designed, if the job requires a specific tool use that tool do not improvise.

If you see someone doing it wrong STOP the job and explain why a few minutes now saves a long time to heal later