

Nails Are Dangerous Too

You might think that nails are not a big safety concern. However, about 20% of all minor injuries on construction jobs are a result of punctures, scrapes, and cuts from nails that were not properly removed from lumber and other debris. We all recognize what can happen if a nail is not properly set before driving it, yet we often forget about how dangerous a nail is once it becomes scrap.

Guide for Discussion

Driving Nails:

- Be sure your hammer is in good condition.
- Always hit the nail squarely, especially on the first blow.
- Always strike the nail head on the perpendicular.
- Make sure the back swing is unobstructed; being hit by the claws can cause serious injury.
- Be consistent—"groove" your swing.
- Concentrate on the head of the nail.

Pulling Nails:

- Always pull or bend nails when stripping.
- Use the right pulling device for the job.
- If needed, use a block of wood as a fulcrum. It will make the job much easier.
- Keep scrap materials in neat piles and out of walkways.
- Carefully discard used nails.

Additional Discussion Notes

Remember Always treat nails with the respect due them. Otherwise you may end up with puncture wounds, scrapes, cuts, or the loss of your eyesight. Use your common sense when driving or pulling nails.

Attendees _____

Questions? Ask your Supervisor or CIRMA Risk Management Consultant.