Executive Summary

According to OSHA, nail gun injuries are responsible for approximately 37,000 emergency room visits annually. In some cases, workers have died from their injuries. This document will help employers make necessary changes to improve nail gun safety and protect their workers from preventable injuries and death.

Warehouse workers, particularly those loading customer trailers, use nail guns nearly every day. Although this tool is easy to operate and increases productivity, there have been reports of internal and external bodily injuries. These injuries occur as a result of unintended nail discharge; nails that bounce off a hard surface or miss the work piece and become airborne; and disabling the gun's safety features, among other causes. Injury prevention is possible if managers take steps such as using full sequential trigger nail guns; establishing nail gun work procedures; and providing workers with personal protective equipment.

The objective of this Toolbox Talk is to help safeguard your employees’ well-being and protect other workers and customers who visit your facility by following proper safety procedures. Two toolbox talks are provided - one reviewing an actual accident and another reviewing industry best practices. Also provided are a relevant safety checklist, standard employee meeting sign-in sheet, and a safety related “Product of the Month” feature.

Enclosed in this installment of MIA Safety Services are the following resources:

7.1 TOOLBOX TALK - OSHA ACCIDENT - Nail Gun Accident OSHA Review
- Agenda
- Overview
- Description of Accident
- Prevention Recommendations
- Recap & Review

7.2 TOOLBOX TALK - SAFETY - Nail Gun Safety
- Overview
- The Unloading Procedure
- Discussion
- Recap and review

7.3 SAFETY CHECKLIST - Nail Gun Safety

7.4 SIGN-IN SHEET

7.5 SAFETY PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

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7.1 Toolbox Talk - OSHA Accident Summary

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).

Agenda

Accident Type: Struck by falling object or projectile
Weather Conditions: Clear
Type of Operation: Cut Stone and Stone Products
Size of Work Crew: 2
Safety Monitor on Site: No
Safety and Health Program: No
Regular Worksite Inspections: Yes
Training Provided: Yes, OJT
On the Job Experience: 1 yr.

Brief Description of Accident

On the date of the incident, Employee #1 and his coworker were loading a trailer with bundles of granite slabs. The trailer was not equipped with A-frame supports or poles. Standard procedure called for nailing 2x4 wood braces at 45-degree angles between the truck floor and the bundles of stone to keep the bundle from falling.

While securing the load, Employee #1 reached for the nail gun on the trailer floor with one hand while trying to hold the 2x4 in place with the other. The nail end of the gun was pointed at his chest when he picked it up. He was killed when a nail fired into his chest, piercing his heart. The safety device on the pneumatic nail gun had been purposely jammed by a nail.

Inspection Results

OSHA issued citations for several serious violations of OSHA standards including:

- Frequent and regular inspections of equipment were not made by competent persons designated by the employer in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1926.20(b)(2).
- The employees using powder actuated tools were not trained in the safe operation of the particular tool (19926.302(e)(2)).

Accident Prevention Recommendations

- Train all personnel to recognize potential problems and hazards when working with hand tools, air pressure and bracing procedures.

Recap and Review

- Has anyone seen or experienced a similar accident? What happened?
- Could this accident have been prevented? How?

Reminder: Safety is the responsibility of both management and employees!

The next safety meeting is scheduled for ____________and the topic will be______________.

NOTE: The case here described was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.
7.2 Toolbox Talk - Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety Tips

(Adapted from www.osha.gov/Publications/nail-gun.html)

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).

**Agenda**

1. **Overview:** Nail guns drive nails and staples into building materials. Injuries or fatalities can result from improper use.

2. **Hazards:** The operator and coworkers are at risk. Eyes, hands and fingers are especially at risk. Nails can:
   a. Splinter or blow out fragments from the material.
   b. Puncture the back of the material.
   c. Fire completely through the material and strike workers behind the nailing surface.
   d. Pose contact hazards, such as nails striking electrical wires.

3. **Common Tool Types**
   a. Sequential tools require the nose (workpiece contact) to be depressed before the trigger is pulled.
      * Two-step sequence makes accidental firing less likely.
      * Can be used for most nailing tasks.
   b. Contact tools: Tool fires anytime the trigger and nose (workpiece contact) are both depressed.
      * Trigger can be held down to allow “bump firing”.
      * Use for nailing on flat surfaces. CAUTION: If trigger is depressed, the tool will fire anytime the nose is depressed; can also cause unwanted double firing of nails.

4. **Safe work Practices and PPE**
   a. Follow manufacturer’s tool labels and operating manual.
   b. Wear Safety glasses with side shields.
   c. Never defeat or modify safety features.
   d. Keep fingers away from trigger when not driving nails.
   e. Sequential tools have reduced risk of accidental and double firing.
   f. Avoid line of fire hazards in front of and behind material; position yourself (especially your free hand) out of the line of fire. Never point nail gun at anyone. Watch for coworkers behind the nailing surface.
   g. Disconnect the gun to perform maintenance, move to another work area, or clear jams.
   h. Train on safe operating procedures, proper body placement and correct PPE use.
   i. NOTE: The tool must meet applicable OSHA guarding standards.

5. **Discussion:**
   a. Review your company policy regarding power saws.
   b. What engineering control measures are in place?

6. **Recap/Review:**
   a. What is the primary cause of death in power saw accidents?
   b. What steps can you take to prevent injury or death when operating a saw?

7. **Reminder:** Safety is the responsibility of management and employees!

8. **Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for ________________ and the topic will be ________________.”
7.3 MIA Safety Checklist - Nail Gun Safety

According to OSHA, nail gun injuries are responsible for approximately 37,000 emergency room visits annually. In some cases, workers have died from their injuries. This checklist will help improve nail gun safety and protect you from preventable injuries and death.

- As in any slab handling activity, be sure to inspect all of the systems, tools and supplies you will be using to unload the container.
- Wear safety glasses
- Always set firing pressure at manufacturer’s recommendations
- Do not defeat safety devices
- Keep hands and feet clear at all times
- Do not exceed weight or number of slab limit of A-frames (some are labeled – if not, check with your supervisor).
- Identify the area in which you will be unloading, and then check out the fall shadow from the container and stay out of that area when slabs are being moved.
- Never allow anyone in your work zone because it can cause distractions which may cause you to lose focus on the task at hand.
- Only use a sequential style nail gun, these do not allow bump firing. The nose has to be depressed before the trigger can be pulled.
- Keep finger off trigger when not driving nails.
- Avoid line of fire hazards in front of and behind material; position yourself (especially your free hand) out of the line of fire. Never point nail gun at anyone. Watch for coworkers behind the nailing surface.
- Disconnect or remove power source from gun to perform maintenance, move to another work area, or clear jams.
- Train on safe operating procedures, proper body placement and correct PPE use.
- Stay alert! Stay alive!
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<td>FACILITATOR:</td>
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**NOTES:**
7.5 MIA Safety Product of the Month

Safety Posters (Set-of-6)

Powerful natural stone safety posters designed to raise safety awareness throughout your facility. The six-poster set covers dealing with slab handling, use of hard hats, dust protection, saw safety, drugs and alcohol in the workplace, and the "10 Commandments of Safety."

Poster size 22" x 28"

Member Price: $99.00
Non-Member Price: $159.00

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