

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Chop Saw Safety

Chop saws are used to cut a variety of stock, but are most commonly used to cut wood or steel. Chop saws are operated by manually lowering the saw blade into the stock from an overhead, hinged position. Chop saw blades turn toward the operator from the top, and the blade can spin at thousands of revolutions per minute. The user must hold the stock at times, creating an amputation hazard. Use holding devices if the saw was provided with them. Verify that hands and fingers are out of the line of fire. Review these safety tips with users of chop saws.

### WORKSAFE TIPS

#### CHOP SAW HAZARDS:

- Point of operation: Hands and fingers can be severely cut or amputated when the blade is dropped on them.
- In-running nip points: If the blade is not covered hair and clothing can be pulled in. As the blade turns and is dropped into the stock it creates an in-running nip point.
- Kickbacks: Stock is caught by the blade and thrown back at the operator.
- Flying chips: Wood or metal chips and splinters may be thrown by the cutting blade into the face and eyes.

#### CHOP SAW SAFETY:

- Before operating, ensure that all guards are in place and working.
- If a guard seems slow to return to its normal position, adjust or repair it immediately.
- Verify hands and fingers are out of the line of fire.
- Remove loose clothing and jewelry, tie back long hair.
- Use only recommended size and RPM rated blades.
- RPM rating on the blade must be HIGHER than the SPINDLE SPEED (RPM) of the saw.
- Some blades are for use in STATIONARY chop saws and others are for use in PORTABLE chop saws.
- Maintain sharp blades.
- Always wear eye and face protection.
- Wear hearing protection as chop saws are extremely loud.
- Wear eye protection as chop saws emit high-

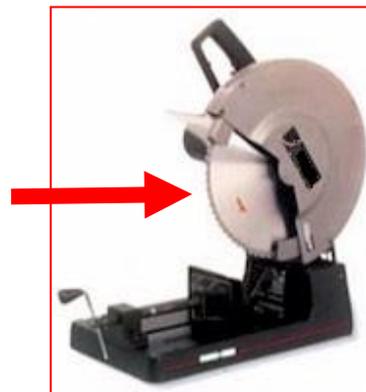
velocity sparks, metal fragments and sawdust.

- Wear personal protective equipment recommended in the owner's manual.
- Regularly check blade for tightness.
- Don't try to cut stock that is too small – a finger injury or amputation could result.
- To avoid contact with a coasting blade, do not reach into the cutting area until blade has stopped rotating.

**EVEN WHEN GUARDED PER MANUFACTURER SPECS, CHOP SAWS HAVE A DANGEROUS EXPOSED BLADE**



**USE CAUTION: BLADE IS EXPOSED ON MANY CHOP SAWS!**





*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.*

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