

KEYWORDS: HAND TOOLS ; TOOLS; PLIERS; WRENCHES**10-15 MINUTES**

Topic: Pliers and Wrenches



IDEAS FOR YOUR TALK:

- *People remember facts better when they're interactive and visual: use Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches to illustrate or demonstrate your risk statements.*
- *People remember stories better than raw facts: think of a personal story that you can share.*
- *People structure thoughts to remember them: think of risks or defects that can occur with each component of Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches .*
- *YouTube is another good source of information and offers many safety videos and demonstrations. Select only videos that are high-quality.*

Explain dangers:

Injuries with hand tools are not often serious, but they can be severe enough to send you to the hospital and make you lose time from work. Common causes include using the wrong tool, using the right tool improperly, rushing, and lack of training or experience.

Demonstrate:

Review the types of pliers and wrenches used by your crew. Inspect a few for evidence of wear, damage, or misuse.

1. SUGGESTED ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS:

- Who has used Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches on this job?
- What is the main risk involved in using Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches?
- Has anyone heard of an incident or accident involving Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches?

2. TALKING POINTS:

ALL TOOLS

- Wherever possible, don't expose tools to extremes of heat and cold. Metal will lose its temper and get brittle.
- Don't extend the handles of tools with sleeves or cheater bars for more leverage and power.
- Don't confuse cushion grips with insulated handles. Cushion grips are for comfort only. Insulated handles are for electrical shock protection.
- Don't hammer on the handles of wrenches or pliers to gain more force. The tool could bend, break, or fly off and hit you or someone else.

PLIERS

- Use pliers with enough space between the handles to keep the palm and fingers from being pinched.
- Don't use pliers to turn nuts and bolts. The jaws can slip and damage corners and edges of nuts and bolt heads. Use a proper wrench instead.
- Replace pliers when teeth or cutters are worn—they can slip and cause injury

WRENCHES

- Always grip the wrench so it will not cause injury if it slips. But be prepared in case it slips. Make sure your footing is solid, your stance is balanced, and your hands are clear.
- Use penetrating oil to loosen tight nuts and bolts.
- Use the right wrench for the job. Don't use pipe wrenches on nuts or bolts. Don't use adjustable wrenches on pipe.
- Never overload a wrench by using a pipe extension on the handle or by striking the handle with a hammer. This can weaken the metal of the wrench and cause it to break.

3. CLOSING QUESTIONS:

- Do you know of any damaged Hand Tools - Pliers and Wrenches?
- Do you have questions on this subject, inspection or safe use?
- Are you aware of a risk on this jobsite that shouldn't be?



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