

**Hand Tool Awareness  
Participant Handout**  
2022-08-16

**Key Points**

- Non-Powered hand tools are tools that are powered manually e.g., axes, screwdrivers, wrenches etc.
- Powered hand tools that are powered by an energy source e.g., electric drills, air ratchets, etc.
- Injuries from non-powered hand tools can include:
  - Puncture wounds (screwdriver punctures hand)
  - Broken bones (hammer hits finger)
  - Lacerations (knife cuts)
  - Muscle strains (pulling too hard on a wrench)
  - Bruises (wrench releases and you drive your knuckles into something)
  - Eye injuries (metal chip from punch hits eye)
- There were 14,187 WorkSafe BC claims related to non-powered hand tools from 2017- 2021. The highest claims were for:
  - Knives 5,130 claims
  - Shovels 1,194 claims
  - Hammers 1,004 claims
  - Brooms, mops, and other cleaning tools 908 claims
  - Crowbars 839 claims
- These WorkSafe BC claims are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to non-powered hand tool injuries. How many first aid reports were filed? How many injuries were NOT reported to first aid?
- The types of injuries from non-powered hand tools include:
  - Laceration 6,595 claims
  - Musculoskeletal related injuries 5,349 claims
  - Contusion 867 claims
  - Fractures 524 claims
- Hazards related to non-powered hand tools can be related to the purpose of the tool e.g., striking tools, pinching tools, lifting and prying tools, fastening tools, cutting tools, etc.
- Use manufacturer's instructions or develop Safe Work Procedures (SWP) for use of hand tools.
- Have workers demonstrate correct use of the tools.
- Inspect the tool before use and tag out defective tools.
- Use the right tool, for the right job.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions (owner's manual) handy for workers to access.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for the installation, inspection, testing, repair and maintenance of any tool.
- Line of fire is a term that refers to when workers place themselves in harm's way by virtue of the type of work they perform. Stay out of the line of fire.
- Use the appropriate personal protective equipment based on the hazard from the tool.
- Buy tools that have good ergonomic features e.g., grips.
- Consider the use of non-powered hand tools versus powered tools. Depending on the frequency of use, powered hand tools will prevent injuries and speed up the job compared to using non-powered hand tools.

### Legal References

- [Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) – numerous OHSR 3.5 4.3, part 8,

### Resources

- [Proper use and care of hand tools](#) – Hand Tools Institute
- [Hand Tools – General Hand Tool Operation](#) – CCOHS website
- [Hand Tools OHS Answers Fact sheets](#) – CCOHS website
- [Assessing risk](#) – hand tools – WorkSafe BC
- [Our hands at work?](#) – Government of Canada
- [Hand Safety Handbook](#) – HexArmor
- [Hand and Power Tools manual](#) – OSHA USA
- [Safe Work Procedures](#) – various topics – Construction Safety Association of Manitoba

### Training

- Check the Alliance [website](#) for training courses offered in Virtual, Online and Onsite training formats.
- [Construction Safety Training System – Fundamentals \(hand tool module\)](#) – Alberta Construction Safety Association