

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense
 Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Defective Tools

- The rule for defective tools is quite simple—Don't use them.
- Defective tools are dangerous and their use has resulted in many serious accidents, and in some cases, death.
- Some examples of defective hand tools include:
 - loose, split, or cracked handles on hammers and picks;
 - mushroomed heads on chisels, drills, and steel wedges;
 - files without handles; and
 - worn-out jaws on wrenches.
- A common defect on power-operated tools is a broken, displaced, or inoperative tool guard. Power tool flaws also include defective switches, cracks in insulated out jackets, missing ground prongs, and damaged insulation on electric cords.
- To prevent injury due to defective tools, inspect all tools carefully before you use them. Check tools for sharpness, chips, mushrooming, wear, and metal fatigue. Make sure that all nuts, bolts, and screws that hold the tools together are tight. Inspect electrical components to ensure they are in good condition.
- Use the appropriate tool for the job. Do not use fine tools on tough or thick materials. For instance, use bull snips on thicker metals that require more force to cut.
- If you discover a defective tool, immediately take it out of service and report the damage to your supervisor.
- Never use defective tools until they are properly repaired or replaced.
- Keep your tools clean and away from water, oil, chemicals, and hot surfaces that may damage them.

Instructor Tips

- **Provide workers with examples of defective tools that have been taken out of service.**
- **Ask workers to recall any accidents and/or injuries that may have occurred while using a defective tool.**
- **Emphasize to workers to never use a power tool with a missing ground prong.**
- **Emphasize to workers to make sure double insulated tools have proper polarity.**

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