

Hazard Review

- **Muscle strain**
- **Musculo-skeletal injury**
- **Repetitive strain injury**

Related Safe Work Practices

- **Fall Protection**
- **Hearing Conservation**

Personal Protective Equipment

- **Hard hats**
- **Hearing protection**
- **Safety glasses with side shields**
- **Safety shoes**
- **Safety warning sign**

Authority

- CCR Title 8 Section 1685, 1687, 1689, 1690, 1691, 6105 (a), 6075 (b)

Prepared by:	S. Williams, H. Stoermer
Approval by:	J. Bramlett, EHS Program Manager EHS Advisory Committee S. Reese, Superintendent of Neighborhood Services T. Schwartz, Superintendent of Citywide Services B. Chow, Superintendent of Structural Maintenance K. Petrucione, Director of Administration K. Gee, Manager of Human Resources Y. Agunbiade, General Manager
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BEFORE

1. Complete required training. This includes:
 - training and certification (in the form of an operator's card) by an qualified instructor (someone who has been trained in accordance with the training requirements established by the tool manufacturers or the Powder Actuated Tool Manufacturer's Institute). It is recommended that persons using the tools always have their valid operator's certification card with them; note that without this card, the tools cannot be used.
 - a review of the manufacturer's operating manual.
 - training on this SWP and those listed as related. These must be completed before the initial assignment and every 2 years thereafter.
2. A person who is receiving training may be permitted to operate a powder-actuated tool when under direct supervision of a qualified instructor (see definition above).

3. Before using powder-actuated tools, a complete study of the job task should be assessed to ensure that the tool use does not put user or co-workers at risk of injury.
4. Tools operators must have and use appropriate personal protective equipment such as hard hats, ANSI approved safety glasses with side shields, safety shoes, and ear muffs or plugs.
5. Inspect powder-actuated tools for obstructions or defects each day before use to ensure tools are in proper working conditions.
6. Do not load powder-actuated tools until they are ready to be used for fastening.
7. Never modify or fabricate parts for use in powder-actuated tools.

DURING

1. Clearly post a sign at least 8 inches by 10 inches with bold face type reading "CAUTION - POWDER-ACTUATED TOOLS IN USE" when the tools are being used. Signs are available at EHS.
2. Do not point powder-actuated tools at anyone, whether they are loaded or not.
3. If work is interrupted after loading fastener into the tool, unload tool immediately.
4. Keep hands and feet clear of the open barrel end.
5. Do not use powder-actuated tools in areas where flammable or combustible atmospheres may be present.
6. When operating a powder-actuated tool, press the tool perpendicular and firmly against the work surface into which the fastening device is being driven.
7. Never compress the tool against any part of the body.
8. Never guess the suitability of a base material. If you are uncertain about the suitability of a base material, perform a center punch test.
9. Never drive a fastener into a "spalled" or chipped surface, (i.e., over an uneven area where a previous fastening was unsatisfactory.)

10. Do not drive fasteners into easily penetrated material unless that material is backed by an object that will prevent the fastener from passing completely through the material and creating a flying missile hazard on the other side.
11. Never shoot into a surface unless you are certain it will contain the fastener.
12. In the event of a tool malfunction, keep the tool depressed against the work surface for a minimum of 30 seconds in case of a delayed load discharge. Carefully remove the entire load strip, and dispose it in a can of water or other non-flammable liquid.
13. Never discard unfired powder loads into a trash container.
14. Do not attempt to unload or disassemble a jammed, stuck or broken tool as improper handling may cause it to discharge and strike operator and or bystander.
15. In the event of a misfire, hold the tool firmly against the work surface for a period of 30 seconds and then follow the instructions set forth in the manufacturer's instructions.
16. Never leave a loaded tool unattended.
17. Use the tool for its intended purpose only.
18. Never attempt to override the safety features of the powder-actuated tool.

AFTER

1. Turn off the powder-actuated tool, then unload the tool.
2. Store powder-actuated tools in its own locked container after use and shall be accessible only to authorized personnel.
3. Instruction manuals, power load charts, fastener charts, tool inspection, service record, maintenance tools and accessories supplied with the tool shall be stored in the tool container when not in use.
4. Remove any defective or poorly working tool immediately from service and tag as "unsafe" or "defective".

References:

1. Steinhatchee Safety Supplies - General Industry Safety Talks: Power - actuated hand tools –

<http://toolboxtopics.com/Gen%20Industry/Powder%20Actuated%20Hand%20Tools.htm>

2. Power Actuated Tools – Safety: Environment, Health, and Safety Div.:
Harvard University, 2006
3. P2201 Powers Low Velocity Powder Actuated Fastening Tool Manual Cat.
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