Reciprocating & Jig Saw Safety

TRADE: CARPENTRY & MILLWORK	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE
Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Reciprocating & Jig Saw Safety can go wrong fast when blade exposure, hidden utilities and loss of control. Use the job in front of you to show the crew where the exposure is and how it will be controlled. Most tool injuries happen at the point where the tool meets the material: hands are too close, the workpiece moves, the guard is defeated, the accessory is wrong or stored energy is released during a jam or adjustment. Set the work up so control does not depend on reflexes.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS
During Reciprocating & Jig Saw Safety, the tool begins binding, vibrating, feeding poorly, failing to return, or producing a different sound than it did at setup. It still operates. What should the operator do before making another cut, hole, fastener, or pass?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Inspect the exact tool, guard, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord/hose and handle before use.
- Secure/support the workpiece and clear the cutting, kickback, firing and pinch path.
- Set up power/air isolation so jams and adjustments can be handled without exposure.
- Confirm the material is secured before beginning the cut.
- Check both sides of the cut for wires, piping, fasteners and occupied space.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Confirm the material is secured before beginning the cut.
- Check both sides of the cut for wires, piping, fasteners and occupied space.
- Match the blade type and length to the material and cut depth.
- Let the blade stop before setting the tool down or reaching near the cut.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Using a tool with a defeated guard, wrong accessory or damaged safety feature because it still runs.
- Holding the work by hand where a clamp/support would keep hands out of the hazard path.
- Clearing a jam or changing an accessory before energy is isolated.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- A guard, handle, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord, hose or safety device is damaged, missing or modified.
- The workpiece cannot be secured or the operator cannot keep hands/body out of the cutting, firing, kickback or pinch path.
- A jam, adjustment or maintenance task would require reaching into the hazard without isolating energy.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. Is the blade correct, sharp and undamaged, and are the required guard/riving/safety features operating?
2. How is the material supported so the kerf will not close, bind the blade or drop unexpectedly during the cut?
3. Where is the kickback/cut path, and how will hands and the rest of the body stay out of it?
4. What is the isolation step before changing a blade, clearing a jam or making an adjustment?
5. What should the operator do before making another cut, hole, fastener, or pass?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB
Hold the tool (de-energized) and identify the guard, hazard path, workpiece support and isolation point.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW
Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.300 - General Tool Safety and Guarding

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Reciprocating & Jig Saw Safety

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.