



# Power Saw Safety

*Each year, power saws cause serious injuries, such as electrical shock, cuts, and lacerations, to thousands of workers. These tools can do more than just injure a worker—they can kill.*

## Quentin's Story

Quentin, a carpenter, was remodeling a home. He had finished the wood frame for an outside wall and began to trim the drywall with a power saw. Quentin set the depth of the saw blade to 1 inch past the thickness of the drywall. The blade came in contact with the sawhorse and kicked back, cutting his arm and torso. Quentin's injuries included cut ligaments and tendons in his arm.

✘ **How could this injury have been prevented?**

✘ **Have you or someone you know ever been injured by a power saw? If so, what happened?**

## Remember This

➤ Read the owner's manual before you first use a saw. Make sure that moveable guards are working properly. Keep blades sharp, clean, and

oiled. Inspect blades for cracks.

- Wear goggles or safety glasses with side shields, even if you wear a face shield. Also wear proper shoes.
- Take these steps to prevent entanglement:
  - Do not wear jewelry, such as chains.
  - Do not wear loose clothes.
  - Put up your hair if it is long, and tie it inside your hard hat.
- Cut only if you have a clear work area and solid footing. Make sure the cutting path is clear of any foreign objects or nails.
- Make sure your electric saw is double-insulated, with a 3-prong plug in a grounded outlet.
- Use a cord with built-in GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) when working in dampness.
- Consider using a simple, nonbreakable night-light in the cord for a power-on indicator.
- Let the blade spin down, and do not stop it with your hand. Unplug the saw before you change a blade. Make sure you can see and control the plug so no one else plugs it in, or put the plug in a locked plastic box.



# Power Saw Safety



- ✘ Wear goggles or safety glasses with side shields.
- ✘ Do not wear jewelry, such as chains.
- ✘ Do not cut unless you have a clear work area and solid footing.