

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I have a 7 1/4 inch Skil 574 Circular Saw. The CS is 15+ years old. An oil leak from the motor and the hot saw blade caused the CS to catch on fire.

Advice

Watch out for oil leaks from older CSs.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

we were working on a deck and with poor judgement at the time i chocked open the guard and after a few cuts i forgot about the chock and put the saw down. that saw ran across my leg after i put it on the deck, cut open my pants and just nicked me. i also had to replace 4 cedar boards. do not try this at home.

Advice

always keep the guard on the saw.

Tool Type Circular Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

As a young man I worked Light and Residential construction. We did insurance work rebuilding Fire damaged homes. I was working on a upper floor installing Particle board flooring in preperation for carpet. I cut into my saw horse with my Skillsaw so I backed out and reached under the flooring to move the Saw horse, I touched the saw horse then moved my hand over to the edge to move it. As I lay my hand open to catch the edge the still spinning blade opend the soft tissue between my thumb and my index finger on my left hand. I required 5 stiches and a Tetnis shot. I was lucky.

Advice

On thing to remember about equipment with inertia is that it takes time to be fully expended. Machines are absolutly unforgiving. If you make a mistake using a machine there is a great possibility that you or some one else may get injured.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

As a framer, I use saws daily. You'd think I would have learned by now to be careful, and I suppose I have - but all it takes is one time... I just had to cut 3 inches or so off the end of a stud. No horses close by. I pencil the line. Pick the stud up and hold it with my left hand, worm-drive saw in the right, bend over a little to hold it tight, pull the trigger and saw the stud. Also sawed a 1/2" deep furrow diagonally across the top of my right thigh at the same time, about 6" long.

Advice

Advice? Don't do stupid things with tools that can hurt you.

Tool Type Circular Saw

Experience Advanced

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was ripping cedar fence boards with a Craftsman 7 1/4" circular saw fitted with a good steel rip blade. Because of the length of the cut and the awkward angle I'd mounted the board across some sawhorses, I was holding the saw only with my right hand and the board with my left. The saw bound in the kerf and kicked back. It came back about 2 feet and roll the exposed blade over my left hand. Luckily it only cut my left thumb halfway through and missed the major nerve bundle by 1/2mm. After surgery and therapy, I've gained complete use of my thumb again (it took a couple years).

Advice

(1) Never use a circular saw one handed. It is not possible to control the saw with one hand if the saw binds. (2) Always stand squarely or position yourself so that you are out of the path of kickback. (3) If the workpiece isn't stable enough to cut it without holding it with one hand (see (1) above), don't cut it. Wait until you've clamped it down. Don't rush or be impatient.

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Needed Medical Attention

Description

After using our homemade circular-table saw (we didn't make it) for enough time to get a bit complacent I reached over to get a push stick halfway through a cut and put the tip of my thumb into the saw blade. This entitled me to two stiches and some missing bone from my thumb tip.

Advice

Have push sticks ready before cut Remember saws bite and flesh is easier to cut than wood

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Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Description: While crosscutting a piece of wood free hand with a worm-drive Skill saw a knot was encountered causing the saw to pause in its forward motion. In pushing harder I unconsciously straightened the index finger on my left hand so that when the saw progressed through the board it removed the pad area of said index finger plus a little bit of the bone.

Advice

Be more careful

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Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Needing to cut only 2" off from a 2 x 4 which was only about 4' long, I set it on the floor and kneeled behind it. Cutting with my right hand only and holding the wood with my left, the saw kicked back and buried itself into my right thigh. Cutting diagonally about 6-7" across just above the knee cap down to the bone. It took about 130 stiches in and out and 10 weeks off work and 8 weeks of re-hab. The funny thing was a table saw was about 8 feet away but i was in a hurry. Never ever hurry!!!!!! It's not worth it

Advice

If you catch yourself combining power tools along with hurrying, stop and think about the consequence. I know now!!!!!!

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was building a deck for my boss at his mountain cabin. I had set up my skill saw as a tablesaw and just left it as such knowing that my boss's saw was available for cutting the decking to length. After several cuts with a speed square and my boss's saw, I heard a "TING" sound and looked at my hand knowing the blade hit my fingers. I didn't feel pain and thought I was ok. It turned out that I had let go of the trigger just before I stopped the blade with my fingers. The blade rolled the middle and index fingers around cutting three quarters of the the circumference but missing the bone. Quite a bit of damage to tendons and nerves. I was lucky. What actually happened was that I picked up someone else's tool without looking at it and the owner of the tool had tied up his blade guard. I never leave the guard on my saw tied up for more than it takes to make the special cut, but his saw in my hands felt like my own. My fingers had no business being that close to the blade, but that is what the guard is for.

Advice

Never leave a safety device out of use if not absolutely necessary. It's a very good idea to take a look at an unfamiliar tool before using, even if it's a carbon copy of your own.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Very trite, but true--The last piece of t&g oak[3' long] on a floor on my first job as a carpenter[1969] The piece needed to be ripped so it could be rolled in next to the wall. I scribed the line of cut on the piece and set it up on a low work bench. I used my left hand on the far end of the piece to hold it to the bench. I then cut the line up to the bench and stopped the saw. Then I picked up the piece,saw and all, and moved it forward so the sawblade was on the far side of the bench. I shook the saw and moved it back and forth in the kerf until I was certain it was loose, with my left hand now clamping it to the bench behind the saw. Then I pulled the trigger. The saw came backwards out of the kerf so fast, there was no time to react. Result?--The cut began between my thumb and forfinger and proceeded to sever all tendons and nerves and cut nearly halfway through the radius and ulna. A bad deal all around!

Advice

The saw turned out to have a deliberately stiffened blade guard because the carpenter it belonged to did a lot of mitering with it. It is a pain in the ass to miter with that guard forcing you off line-- do it that way anyway!!!! When they say NEVER put a part of your body in harm's way, THEY MEAN NEVER!!!! Good luck, be careful chuck

Tool Type

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Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I was cutting pieces of jarrah for a school project of mine and as i cut one i would push it onto the floor. but one piece was left next to the blade, as i cut through the first piece on the way back the blade grab the other piece and jammed up on me as i accidently dropped the saw, it almost cut off my fingers and gave me a good whack.

Advice

Take your time when cutting wood clear your bench before you cut every piece of wood

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

When I was a teenager I was doing odd jobs one summer. I had a job building room partitions in a warehouse. It happened while trimming a 4 X 8 piece of wall paneling that was lying on two saw horses. I was holding the circular saw in my left hand, (Im right handed) and supporting the board with my right hand. I was also in a hurry to take my lunch break. My right hand fingers were wrapped under the panel while I was concentrating on following the scribe mark with the saw in my left hand. I cut past my right hand and took off the first joint of my pointer finger, that was under the panel, on my right hand and cut into the next finger also. About of finger went flying across the room. That was about 30 years ago and the finger reminds me everyday.

Advice

Do't do a right handed job with your left hand and visa versa. Never be in a hurry when using power tools.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I HAVE BEEN A CONTRACTOR FOR 25 YEARS AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE BEEN CUT BY A SAW. I WAS CUTTING PLYWOOD ON A WORK PLATFORM. I COMPLETED MY CUT AND PUT THE SAW DOWN ON THE PLATFORM.THE GUARD STUCK AND THE SAW RAN ACROSS THE PLYWOOD AND INTO MY LEFT THUMB. THE CUT REQUIRED 11 STICHES AND I HAVE CUT THE NERVE IN THE THUMB AND IT IS NUMB. THE DOCTORS SAY Ii WILL PROBABLY NEVER GET FULL SENSATION BACK IN THIS HAND.

Advice

NEVER TRUST THE GUARD ON A SAW.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

I was trimming down the bottom of an interior door with a portable circular saw. I had just come from a counseling session and my mind was elsewhere. I was guiding the edge with my finger as I have done many times before, but this time I let my finger relax and the blade made contact. A chunk of flesh but not the bone. I was fortunate this time. .

Advice

Moral of the story? Don't work with tools unless you are able to concentrate completely on the project

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

Changing blade on circular saw which I hadn't used in a couple of days. The saw was plugged into an extension cord (1 of 2 that I was using), so I hit the switch to see if it was powered up. No response so I assumed it was unplugged. Changed the blade out with my fingers and palms fully exposed. When I went to plug in the extension cord, imagine my surprise to see that it was plugged in to an outlet box. Upon closer inspection, the plug was not fully seated - a tap to the plug powered up the cord!

Advice

The old "assume" axiom almost proved true - could have easily lost my fingers and-or most of my hand if I had jiggled the extension cord enough for it to make a connection. ALWAYS TAKE THE TIME TO UNPLUG ANY POWER TOOL BEFORE MAKING BLADE CHANGES OR ADJUSTMENTS - EVEN IF IT APPEARS THERE IS NO POWER TO THE TOOL. Thank God I learned my lesson without having to go through an injury!

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was on the Job site. I am a trim carpenter and I was needed to help with on a rough crew to finish a job. We were working on wood siding on this house. I was cutting and the other guy was installing. In order to stay a head of him I needed to cut the starter strips and get the siding to him. I was trying to use the scraps for the starter strips and took the circular saw to rip the strip. the piece was too short and i was in a hurry. i ripped one and then when going to rip the other in the air not on a work surface. I said to myself before cutting that this is dangerous i'm going to get hurt. But i was in a hurry! The saw kicked on my left hand and cut off my index finger, thumb and about 1/3 of my hand. I needed a skin graft and alot of therapy. The Doctor was not able to put my fingers back on because, my thumb was in the saw ripped to nothing and my index finger had nothing to attach too.

Advice

IF YOU THINK IT IS UN-SAFE DO NOT DO IT. EVEN IF YOU ARE IN A HURRY TO KEEP COST DOWN ON THE JOB. Now I'm getting workmans comp. for 2 years. Please be careful.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

Ripping a 4 ' piece of 5/4 pine with a Makita 7" thin combo blade. Just holding the piece down with my left hand ahead of the cut on a saw horse, right edge extended over the right edge of the horse. Cut 1/2 completed, switched left hand to back of the cut while holding the piece down with the running saw, saw pinched, jumped out and JUST ABOUT rolled back over left hand.

Advice

Free hand rips with a circular saw are not a good idea unless you take the time to clamp down the piece, and then re-clamp to finish the cut, or use two clamps on the good side of the piece...so you can keep your hands out of the way of the blade.

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

This one will send shivers down your spine: I was in the back yard cutting a 4X8 piece of shower enclosure with a circular saw. My 2-yr old daughter was inside, or so I thought. My back was to the house. As I carefully brought the saw back from the finished cut I felt the guard hit something -- it was my daughter's face. The blade was still spinning behind the guard.

Advice

Think about the direction that you are facing when you are working with power tools.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

In the interest of saving money, I purchased a circular saw that was missing the blade guard. It gave me and my two brothers no end of amusement to watch it skip across the plywood floor as it came to a halt. Well brother number one was cutting 2 x 10's and forgot about the missing guard, setting it neatly upon his leg (right leg, inner thigh) when finished with the cut. One hospital visit and two weeks later, he was fine to go. Brother number two then repeated the exact same move, this time on his left calf. One hospital visit and three weeks later, he also was fine to go. Lesson: as amusing as the guardless saw was, the \$20 saved on its price didn't really justify the \$2000+ spent on medical bills.

Advice

When allocating an amusement factor in tools, also figure in appropriate incindary allocutions, such as down time and hospital bills.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I am sure this has happened to others many times but not having seen 10 stories I thought I would share this. I was hurrying to cut some lengths of wood when the power cord strayed into the path of the saw, the sparks flew and my instinct was to throw the saw across the lawn. This could have caused far serious secondary disaster to someone else.

Advice

When using portable power tools I always work with the power cord behind me and make sure to check its position before every cut.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Was building a fence and a gate to that fence. The gate was just a hair too wide. So, with a cordless circular saw I figured I'd "shave" about 1/4" off for a 3 or 4" long cut. Stood the fence on end, without a brace or table or clamps or etc. since I was outside. Gripped the gate post well below the saw cut area. Well, while I still don't know exactly what happened since it was so fast, the saw bound in the gate post and my extra "push" of the saw made the gate fall away. I figure as the gate fell away, my forward and downward pressure on the saw caused it strike my left middle finger tip (holding saw with right hand) before the guard could come back in. Cut finger tip clear off about a 1/2 inch. It was just before the bone, thankfully. Found the tip and stitched it back on. Fine now, but a little shorter!

Advice

Here, I think I would have been okay if I had just dropped the saw. That's counterintuitive, but would have worked. So, consider that if you're fast enough. Also, the cut was jagged since I had released the trigger when things fell apart and the blade was slowing down. Had the blade been full speed, it would have made a cleaner cut and easier to heal. Again, counter intuitive, but maybe in a very odd way that would have helped. Of course, the real advice is to either take it to a table saw or at least to brace the workpiece with clamps to a table or etc.

Tool Type Circular Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

About 15 years ago I was making a ladder for an elevated bed for my son and was holding the guard open on the saw with the thumb lever provided by the mfg of the saw. The blade was only extended past the baseplate by 1/2" and I was making a dado for the stair tread. I had the saw in my right hand with the back of it angled to the left toward my left side. As I finished the cut and was backing out, the blade touched the work surface causing the saw to kick back , contacting the blade with my bib overalls, going through them, and my sweatshirt, into my lower left abdomen. The doctor said the combination of the blade setting and my somewhat rotund midsection prevented the blade from getting to the muscle wall. I still have a 5" scar to remind me that I should have used a router instead.

Advice

Use the right tool for the job. Be aware of where things may go if things go awry. Stay out of the damage path of your power tools.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I have worked in the trades for 30 years and always been very careful and fearful of what the saw can do. I was cutting multiple notches in a 1X12 for a shelf rack. I was using a Craftsman 5 1/2 saw (I like to call it a right handed saw because the blade is on the left side of the saw like most worm drive saws and easier to see.) After making 30-40 cuts I was raising the guard with my left thumb and twisted my left index finger into the blade. I've done this a million times and have never even had a close call. I drove myself to the hospital with my hand in a bag of ice. Most of the finger above the last knuckle was flapping in the breeze. I cut muscle, bone, nerves and tendons. The ER doctor pulled it back and sewed it up with fourteen stitches. That was a week and a half ago, it is not healing. Hopefully after my visit to a Plastic Surgeon tomorrow I will have a better idea of what I do next.

Advice

Always be careful. No matter how many times you do something it is still as dangerous as the last.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

It was a cold blustery morning; I was tired and not at all pleased to be outside! A remodel that was cramped and therefore I was outside cutting. Hey, I have done it over and over for the last 25 years of my life so why should it be any different today! I would soon find that this day was indeed different and would be one to remember for the rest of my life!

I was ripping a 2x4 when somehow my trusted Skil 77 jammed in the board (possibly a knot or something) and all of a sudden it twisted out of the board like a hungry tiger! Grrrrrr! It was over in less than a second! There was my left hand dangling by an inch of skin!!! I had ripped straight through my arm at the wrist, mangled flesh and bone just gapping there in mid air! It was like some Horror movie I swear!

Well a tourniquet, mad rush to the E.R., a Helicopter Evac, 7 surgeries, lotsa morphine, a few thousand hours of therapy, and what is believed by all to be the best damn luck of anyone alive I can now use the hand again!! Yes, Virginia they can sew `em back on nowadays! The whole thing cost in the area of \$750,000 so they have nick-named me the "3/4's of a million dollar man". But unfortunately if you're under a million bucks no theme music included!

Advice

If you are tired, cold, and don't want to be there maybe you shouldn't!!! Remember it is far more important to be safe than to be paid! If you must be there maybe you should consider doing the safe stuff that day. Also always keep in mind to not let experience cloud your respect for those tools, they are indeed Weapons of Mass Destruction!

Tool Type

Experience

Injury Severity

Description

We live in a right-handed world! If you are a lefty like me, just know that a circular saw is made for a right-handed person. A righty will hold the board down with his left hand and hold the saw with his right hand. The cutting is on the side away from the hand that is holding. A lefty could hold the saw with his left hand and the board with his right hand-ON THE SIDE NEXT TO THE BLADE. I'll let you guess what happened.

Advice

Basic skills-respect your power tools.

Tool Type

Circular Saw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was using a Craftsman 19.2VDC circular saw to trim 1/16 inch from a rabbited cabinet door edge. The door was clamped down and the strightedge was clamped down. I successfully trimmed about 8" down the rabbit when the battery went out. I recharged the battery about 15 minutes. I thought this would get me through the job because I was only trimming 1/16" by 3/8" deep. Unlike most saws the saw blade safety shield rise lever is at work level. I rised the safety shield lever just enough to allow the saw to start without undue pull. Useing the guide, I retraced the area already trimmed. When the saw blade began cutting fresh wood, it suddenly learched violently to the left severing my left index finger and severely damageing the long finger next to it. I lost the tip of my finger just behind the nail and the tip of my long finger has no feeling. My best guess is that the battery didn't have enough power to keep trimming the wood. If the safety lever had been up higher on the saw I don't believe that I would have been injured. Lesson learned is never take short cuts and know your tools!

Advice

Know your tools, don't take short cuts, and slow down.