

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I dropped my hand held 5" random orbit sander. Picked it up, looked it over and returned to sanding. As soon as it touched the wood it bucked and struck my other hand on top of the first knuckle of my index finger opening an 11 stitch gash. Upon examining the sander I discovered that the plastic disc had cracked and that centripital force had pulled out a jagged, which closed up neatly when the tool was shut off.

**Advice**

Always check a tool carefully when it has been dropped.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

While working in our shop several years ago, I was using an air orbital sander. I wanted to increase the speed of the sander some so I reached under the pad to flip the switch and bumped my left index finger against the edge of the new 80 grit paper that I had just put on. Although it was only sandpaper, it cut like a blade. It took 8 stitches to close that one up.

**Advice**

Although hand sanders seem pretty safe, that isn't always the case. When making any adjustments, the equipment needs to be disconnected from its power source( in this case air).

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

Was sharpening my gardening tools on the grinder when I needed to reposition the grinder for an awkward angle on a shovel. Without thinking, I grabbed the other wheel only to insert my finger between the wheel and guard. Before I knew what happened I ground off the pad of my ring finger. Hurt like hell, but cleaning off the finger was even worse. Realized that, since I had the light shining at the one wheel I was using, I forgot about the other, equally dangerous wheel. Two weeks later, the finger is fine and the skin has grown back.

**Advice**

1) Don't rush 2) Wear gloves 3) Respect machines even if they don't have any sharp edges Webmaster note: Gloves may be fine to protect your hands during some operations, but they may be dangerous in others. When working with power tools, use gloves with caution.

**Tool Type**

**Experience**

**Injury Severity**

**Description**

I used a portable workbench to stand on. It collapsed and I fell head first and was knocked out. When I came to I could not move any of my limbs, I tried to holler but I couldn't get out more than a whisper. I laid there for about 3 hours before my wife came home. They performed emergency surgery and told me that I had crushed my spinal column in the C6-C7 area. That meant I was a quadriplegic and would never walk again and probably not use my hands again. The next day I was sent to the Shepherd spinal center and spent 33 days in the intensive care center. I spent 4 more months there getting therapy. I regained use of my arms but very limited use of my hands. My wife and I continued therapy on my hands for about a total of 2 years. I have regained full use of my hands, but my hands and arms are very weak, but I consider myself very lucky to have use of them. It has been 5 years since the accident and I have been back in the shop for 2 years. I will never walk again and I have no feelings in my fingers, but I consider myself blessed to have gotten back what I have

**Advice**

Please folks whatever you do not take any shortcuts on safety. I have stood on that workbench many times but it only takes once. take the time and get the proper equipment