

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was trimming a house and was making one of the last cuts. I was rushing to get out and wasn't paying attention. I was holding a piece of trim up against the fence, and without realizing it I had my left index finger stuck out behind the blade. I made the cut and I immediately jerked my finger away from the machine. I was kind of afraid to look at it because I had no idea how bad it was. When I finally got up the nerve to look, I had shaved about 1/8" of skin off of the right side of my left index finger. I was incredibly fortunate that it wasn't a lot worse.

Advice

No matter how many thousands of cuts you have made, you should never get too comfortable or too casual with any power tool. I was lucky and learned my lesson without being seriously injured. Always respect your tools, and never forget that you are working with something that has the potential to be very dangerous. You don't want to lose any fingers and wind up having to get a job teaching shop.(My apologies in advance to any ten fingered shop teachers:>)

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

IT WAS WINTER AND I HAD THE SHOP HEATER ON WHICH MAKES CONSIDERABLE NOISE. A FRIEND ENTERED THE SHOP AND WALKED UP BEHIND ME, I HAD NO IDEA ANYONE WAS AROUND AND WAS CONCENTRATING ON HITTING THE MARK ON MY DOWNWARD CUT. AS I DID, HE "my friend" SCREAMED IN MY EAR, IT CAUSED ME TO STICK MY HAND IN THE SAW AS I WAS TURNING AROUND. IT HAPPENED SO QUICK I FORGOT TO RELEASE THE POWER AND ENDED UP CUTTING MY LEFT FINGER NEXT TO THE THUMB HALF WAY THROUGH. THE DR. PUT IT BACK TOGETHER AND I STILL HAVE USE OF IT, BUT THE NERVES WERE SEVERED AND IVE LOST FEELING IN IT.

Advice

I HAVE A VERY LARGE SIGN UP AS YOU WALK IN MY SHOP AND IN BIG LETTERS THE FOLLOWING. " IF I AM RUNNING ANY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, DO NOT DISTURB ME IN ANY WAY UNTIL I HAVE CUT THE POWER, IF YOU SPOOK ME AND I CUT MYSELF IN ANYWAY BECAUSE OF IT, START RUNNING, BECAUSE THE DOG WILL HAVE A PIECE OF YOUR BUTT.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was cutting small pieces of trim on a power miterbox. The piece was a 45 degree, and my left hand was too close to the tip of the blade. When I brought it down and released, I felt something on my left pinkie. At first I thought I might have just nicked it. I actually severed a tendon in the pinkie. I now have a nice 45 degree scar across my 1st knuckle on my pinkie, and am glad that I didn't just lose the entire finger.

Advice

Dont' be a dumbass around power tools, especially with small pieces.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I went to trim a bit off of a piece of 2x4 on the chop saw. Hindsight is 20-20. The piece was only 4 inches long and I went too quick into the cut. WELL! What a fright I got when the wood moved and the blade hooked it. Next thing I knew my hands very quickly went to my chest, all the while I was counting to make sure I still had 8 fingers and two thumbs. Yes, all there. So what happened? The wood was too small for the fence gap. I ruined the wood but more than that, the blade bent and jammed into the housing. It took all I had to pull the blade back out. Worst yet, the "brand new carbide tipped" blade was dented in the process. Pictures of a \$100.00 bill with wings flew away in my mind. That blade now "proudly" is on display in front of my miter saw as a constant reminder. I know, I know "Re-read the manuel"!!

Advice

Never say to yourself, "Ahhh, I won't bother, this will only take a second." Or, "I only need to take off a little bit." SAFTEY FIRST!

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was finishing a basement for a friend, and had completed everything but the baseboard trim. I was putting a 45 degree bevel on the left end of a piece of baseboard, so I had it fed into the saw from the right. I was using my left hand to hold it firm against the fence, so my left arm was crossed over in front of the blade. I had already done this several times without incident, so I was comfortable with this admittedly stupid positioning. The blade caught my forearm just above the wrist and severed all of the extensor tendons for the fingers of my left hand. Luckily the orthopedic surgeon for my medical group just happened to be at the hospital (this happened on a Sunday) and was able to reconnect everything within an hour of the accident. After six months I have regained almost full use of my left hand, although I still have trouble getting a firm grasp.

Advice

Recognize when you are doing something stupid, and change your method immediately. I was developing a bad habit because I had gotten away with it several times previously, and could have easily done damage alot more severe than I did (when I look at the scar, I'm amazed I didn't hit any bone or major blood vessels). Pay very close attention to the distance between rotating blades and body parts, and keep the distance maximized.

Tool Type Mittersaw

Experience Beginner

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

A young woman in Ohio was cutting wood for cabinets she was making with a mittersaw. Either her sleeve or the back of her hand got caught by the spinning blade and she ended up completely severing her left hand from her arm a couple of inches above her wrist. She was working alone and had the presence of mind to apply a tourniquet before dialing 911. She was in surgery for over 8-1/2 hours to reattach her hand. She was a cake decorator and manicurist. Only time will tell if she will ever regain the use of her hand enough to resume her occupations.

Advice

NEVER REACH ACROSS A SPINNING SAW BLADE

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

Removing sawdust from the discharge port before blade came to a complete stop.

Advice

Wait for tool to come to a complete stop before performing maintenance on the tool.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I was in the process of cutting a 1x4. On the edge inline with the cut mark was a small knot about the size of an eraser on a pencil. As I was making the cut, the blade kicked out the knot, it bounced off the back of the saw and in the direction of my face. I was wearing prescription glasses with impact resistance lenses. The knot hit the lense on my left eye knocking it out of the frame. The lens left an imprint on my face that lasted about an hour. If I had not had those glasses on I would have surely lost the use of my left eye.

Advice

Inspect the wood you are about to work with and always wear eye protection.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was cutting 45 Degree angles on a piece of Floor base board. I needed to trim a small section off (1-8") to get it to fit. As I was cutting the piece chipped off and went through the shield. It then caused one of the blade tips to get bent on the shield, and before I could let go of the trigger shield pieces flew everywhere. I had a plastic piece wedged into my arm, but thankfully it only went in about a 1/4 inch. My hand that was holding the piece was a little worse off, a plastic piece went into my right thumb knuckle (nearest the palm), and, even after removing it, swelled to several times the size of the palm. Looking at the wall I saw several pieces of the plastic shield embeded into it. I was in a hurry and had not put on my saftey goggles. After this, I never cut without them on.

Advice

Remember the glasses...

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I just finished installing a built-in and i had a couple pieces of molding to do before quitting time. The baseboard molding was a bit long and I didn't take the time to get it properly supported. I had to really press down on it to get it to lay flat on the mitersaw table and my left hand was much closer than normal to the blade. After I started the cut, I saw I was a bit wide of the mark so I tried to nudge the board to the right a bit. Then my hand slipped and went into the blade. Luckily I hit mostly on the side of the blade and only lost a chunk off the side of my index finger. Instead of going to the hospital, I wrapped it up and kept on working. I needed the final payment and it heeled OK, except there is a nice little scar to remind me of my stupidity.

Advice

Don't Rush! Set your tools and work up properly so you don't end up doing anything weird. Properly supporting the molding would have saved me from such a scare. I was lucky. This time

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

Sliding mitersaws and pipe or round stock: Where I work, we cut a fair amount of copper pipe with woodworking miter saws and I've witnessed this close call several times. There are two variations. If you cut by sliding the carriage into the material the blade wants to pick up the stock and it ends up where it doesn't belong with parts being thrown. If you cut like you would with a regular miter saw and the carriage isn't locked all the way in, the blade tends to push the carriage out and the same thing can happen. I have cut pipe without the carriage locked and have felt the carriage being pushed out and have felt the material being lifted. We have lost at least 6 blades (all FS tool blades \$\$,one brand new)not to mention a guard or two because of this. Only once was the blade salvaged. Once 3" brass round stock was badly mangled (1-2" deep gouges). Frightens me to think that a hand could become hamburger in a split second.

Advice

I really can't recommend cutting this kind of material with a mitersaw. I presume the same thing can happen with wood dowels. Every manual for miter saws I've read recommend clamping the stock. Don't let the carriage be out at all when cutting round material

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

Cutting a 1" piece off of the remaining 3" of a piece of 3/4x1-1-2 stock (ripped to size on table saw) with a power miter saw (aka "chop saw"), I held it by hand, with pressure at about a 45 degree angle to the fence. The blade caught the work and pulled it from my hands. The pressure I was applying to the work pushed my hand into the blade before I could recoil. The blade took about 1/8" of flesh off the tip of my middle finger (felt like I'd been hit hard with a hammer).

Advice

Pay attention to how force is being applied, proximity to blades, and what direction things will move if the workpiece is grabbed! The biggest thing I should have done was throw this piece of wood away and cut the 1" off of the 30" piece I had right next to me -- that, or use a clamp to hold it to the table and fence!

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

While evaluating a few mitersaws I picked up a Porter Cable @ \$299. And out of the box it looked great...came with table extension AND clamps. The 40 tooth blade probably isnt the best choice for small moulding. After several cuts on scrap, chips were flying in all directions! The chip deflector was only slightly adjustable. With chips flying like bullets - one just past my ear - the whole thing went back to the store.

Advice

Dont trust any tool, new or used until you've spent time with it, off the job.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I was trimming some 1"x2"x6" for a little trim project outside using a CMS. The saw was on a Workmate type table. I was cutting the last two pieces. I cut the first placed it on the saw table, set for the second, pulled the blade and the first cut piece caught the blade and slammed into my thumb and smashing it into the fence. I may lose the nail.

Advice

Keep work area clean and be aware of the cut line.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I was trying to cut the end of some very small pieces on my miter saw. Because my miter saw will bevel to the left and the right, the fence is cut at 45 degrees plus to the left and right of the blade. I thought that I could just hold the small piece to the left the blade with my hand, without a clamp and with only a small portion of the fence supporting the left half of the piece. I was wrong. A second after the blade hit the wood, it got pulled through the opening in the fence. However, the wood managed to smash my thumb as it got pulled around the edge of the fence, bloodying my nail bed. Given the sound and the pain, I thought my thumb had been pulled into the blade. Luckily, all I required was a bandage.

Advice

Always use a hold-down clamp, and make certain that the fence supports the bulk of the stock you are cutting. If you are cutting small pieces, make a supplemental fence that leaves no opening behind the blade except for the kerf. I took some dimensional stock to my router table and made a rabbet deeper and wider than my stock. I then placed that stock against the fence, so that my stock was supported fully at the bottom and the back, and even on the cut-off side. Had I thought about this more carefully before I did it, I would have realized that this accident was going to happen.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

I had a long strip (about 30 ") of 1/2" x 3/4" stock. As I was cutting them into a series of smaller lengths, one of the previous cuts that I had measured had inadvertently been left on the bed of the saw. When I placed the long strip against the fence to cut the next piece, I didn't notice the previously cut piece sitting on the bed. When I began my approach, the blade struck the piece that was on the bed and shot it into my thumb. Luckily, it barely broke the skin but the finger bone was bruised and sore for a couple of weeks.

Advice

Make the effort to verify that the bed of the CMS is free and clear prior to every cut. The small pieces can go undetected if you're not careful.

Tool Type Mittersaw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was cutting htis piece of wood about 3 to 4 in. thick nad about 14 in. long. When one of my friends decided to be funny and put the guard on. I didn't realize he had done it, but as soon as I got to the saw I did, so I tried to shut it off but as soon as I let the wood go it propelled right at my stomach and knocked the wind out of me. Yeah, it hurt but I still work my butt off in that class!!

Advice

Always and I mean Always keep one hand on the wood!

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was using a miter saw to cut boards to length to make lawn chairs. The long boards were only supported by the short extensions on the saw, so after making a cut, the scrap on the right side was long and would tend to fall off the saw table. Several times I reached across with my left hand to catch the board from falling, as the blade was slowing down. This time, the blade had not stopped and it caught the top edge of my left index finger. The injury required stitches, and severed a nerve so that I do not have full feeling in the last joint of my finger. A plastic surgeon tried to fix the nerve, but appears to have done more damage.

Advice

As noted in another miter saw accident report, recognize when you are doing something stupid, and modify your behaviour. This was not a correct use for the saw without long extensions, and in any case it would be better to let a board fall to the floor than to reach across a spinning blade. With a miter saw, don't move your hands from the cutting position until the blade has stopped.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Hurt but OK

Description

Cutting a piece on the miter saw. Workplace cluttered. Other wood scraps on the mitersaw table. While holding the workpiece against the fence and beginning the cut, I heard a loud bang on the blade and felt pain in my thumb. First reaction was that I cut my thumb off, but I KNEW I had it well away from the cut line. What happened was the spinning blade hit a piece of scrap that I should have long ago disposed of, and slammed it into my thumb. I looked and saw the blood rushing under the nail. Hurt like #*&^%\$(*. I was on my way out of town, and in a slight hurry, so that coupled with the clutter let my stupidity shine in full splendor. I should have gone to the hospital to have the blood drained from under my thumbnail, but I was on my way out of town. Packed some extra ibuprofen for the trip, but it hurt like \$#%^%\$##\$@, even with extra pills. I considered myself very lucky that nothing serious happened. It was a serious wake-up call, though.

Advice

Keep your shop clean and uncluttered. Only go in your shop when you are not rushed, tired, or distracted. And keep your shop clean.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was trying to nip the end off of a piece of trim that was about a 16th too long. Dull blade, poor hand position, and no clamps = I'm a dummy. The blade grabbed the stock in an instant and pulled it right up the dust ejection chute taking my hand with it. I feel exceedingly lucky that the stock got caught in the chute which stopped the blade and most likely saved my fingers. I did end up with a fancy blade tooth shaped scar in my middle finger and a terrible but healthy fear of using that saw without clamps.

Advice

Clamps, hold downs, whatever you need to hold the stock in place without putting your hands in jeopardy.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was cutting a long piece of baseboard. The long end was to the right of the saw. I used my left hand in a crossover position to hold the molding down on the saw and operated the saw with my right hand. The saw was on the floor. After I finished the cut I let the saw go up and raised my left hand into the blade guard. The guard was the type that goes straight up instead of rotating. I was tired and this was the last piece of trim to be cut. I amputated my hand at the wrist on the backside at an angle to the middle of my palm. My thumb was cut through at the knuckle. I was lucky that a very good surgeon reattached my hand. I lost two fingers and all of the muscles in my hand. It will never be normal again but is better than a hook. After 6 years it still hurts at times.

Advice

DO NOT WORK WHEN YOU TIRED. Pay attention at all times when using potentially dangerous tools. If the guard doesn't look like it will work, get one that will.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I'm finishing my basement--I had to slice just a sliver off a piece of 2x4. The resulting sliver wound up in the slot in the table for the blade, so as soon as I raised the blade I went to remove it and my finger came in contact with the (luckily almost stopped) blade. It's just a scratch, barely enough to bleed, but a wake-up call nonetheless. The problem is that sawdust has built up underneath the spring for the miter saw arm, so that it wasn't raising itself up high enough, and the guard wasn't closing all the way over the blade. And that I reached in there before the blade stopped turning....

Advice

Make sure you keep your tools clean. This particular miter saw has a bad dust collection design that allows dust to build up and eventually the blade will not raise up nearly as high as it should. Oh, and keep your hands away from the blade until it stops moving!

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

Friend of mine was in a hurry. He "thought" he could shave a sliver of wood off an already too small piece of wood by holding it upright and brining the 10" spinning blade down on the unsupported (by the back rest) piece of wood... He called me from the Emergency room to tell me he had really messed up and would I mind coming out and see if i could contact-find his wife while they arranged for a hand surgeon to see and repair his one amputated finger and the other almost amputated finger... the saw had grabbed the tiny piece he was holding pulled it back and his hold on it brought his hand back into the saw as well. He lost his index finger and the feeling-sensation in his middle finger.

Advice

Folks...small pieces of wood dont belong near a miter saw. the work must ALWAYS be supported by the back rest and table...the spinning blade and angle of the teeth on the blade draw the saw into the wood... little stuff is going to grab and fly out the back of the blade.. if your hand is holding the little stuff its going in the blade as well.

Tool Type Mittersaw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

Using a 12" compound MS, I was, for no apparent reason, trying to split an oak 2 x 4 vertically. Without warning, the saw blade jammed in the 2 x 4, and slammed my fingers down onto the metal table, crushing my left "Gig" finger. And it literally crushed it-I saw the w-ray. Looked like splinters. Splint and tape here I come.

Advice

Don't do like me-don't be stupid. Rip on a table saw, noy a CMS.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Beginner

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was cutting sticking for a set of custom doors at my old job. It was getting close to the end of the workday and I had almost a thousand identical pieces to finish. I got in a hurry trying to impress my boss, as it was my first day back to work after a work-related car accident, and my left hand got a little ahead of my right. I reached across the cutting field to grab the next piece before the blade had time to come all the way up. The blade kicked my hand and I jumped, causing an even deeper cut. I barely missed the tendon connecting to my left index finger, but I ended up with 19 stitches and a nasty looking scar.

Advice

Although some work can become monotonous, keep your wits about you and PAY ATTENTION! As previously noted, NEVER reach across the cutting field.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

A couple of years ago I was adding onto a bedroom in our house when I suffered a serious accident. I have had, like most experienced (30 plus years) wood workers some close calls, even a few nicks and from those learned to respect the power and sharpness of all power tools that cut. After all, flesh cuts much easier than pine. Well, following the book to the tee, I was trimming about an inch or so off a couple of 2X4's that were about 24" long. I played by the book, I placed them on the table of the compound miter saw, put the clamp on them, and had my left hand on the 2X4's on the left side of the clamp. My left hand was about a foot or so from the saw, well beyond the danger mark on the table. As I started cutting into the boards, the backstop of all things broke which let the boards spin a little. The saw got a good hold of the boards and literally spun them both about 90 deg and shot them and my left hand out the back of the saw. Luckily the only thing I lost was the end inch or so of my middle finger. They were able to save the rest. The finger between my middle finger and my little finger is still numb and will probably be that way from here on in.

Advice

CONCLUSION: Inspect your tools daily. And I mean look them over closely. Look at the guards, look at the fences, the backstops, cords, tables on things like skill saws, the whole 9 yards.

It's bad enough to get hurt when you make a mistake but it really sucks to get hurt when you follow the book to the tee.

And unlike most, I now have a reminder permantly displayed on my left hand that reminds me to check it out first. It only takes a few seconds to look, but will take more than a lifetime for me to fully recover from this one.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was cutting a small piece of 2x4 and was in a hurry. After making my cut I realized that I did not push the blade completely through the 2x4.

While I was bring the blade up I moved my left hand back down to hold onto the small piece and I put my left index finger into the path of the blade. I felt a small pinch and immediately thought the worst. I was going to be one of those people missing a digit. Fortunately, I only needed a few stitches and had to miss a softball game that week.

Advice

Unless you like scars, or have a desire to be disfigured, take your time. When cutting a smaller piece use another piece of scrap to hold the piece against the fence. Fingers don't grow back!

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

It was early Thanksgiving morning and I was working on a small project. I only needed to make 2 cuts on the sliding miter saw. The board was 1" x 2" x 4' and I needed to cut off two pieces that were each 3" long. The first cut went fine. I only needed to make one more cut but my mobile work table was not nearby to set the first board on. I set the small board at the very front of the saw and thought to myself... don't slide the saw on the next cut. In other words, just plunge cut like a regular miter saw so that you don't hit the small piece that's sitting on the front of the saw. This was all a faint split second thought in the back of my head. When I made the cut the saw blade hit the first 1" x 2" x 3" board and made a horrific noise as the saw stopped. It shattered that block and through it everyway. Unfortunately it through part of it into the end of my left thumb that was holding the stock. It only scared me a bit at first, until I looked at the end of my thumb and realized the the board shattered the end of my thumb. (PANIC and run into the house!) Luckily I only live 3 blocks from a hospital. The surgeon did not have much hope for me having a normal thumb. I can remember barely being able to eat Thanksgiving dinner that year. It took nearly 6 months to get close to normal. That was 3 years ago and my thumb looks about 90% normal. I still only have about 50% feeling in the tip of that thumb.

Advice

Clutter anywhere around the tool is a hazard.

Be aware of the increased risk associated with working early or late.

Invest in a miter saw clamp if your saw allows for it. Although my accident was from my own mistake it's good to use a clamp sometimes

Never take shortcuts or be in too much of a hurry

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

I was making a 2" end grain butcher block out of hard maple. I decided to cut the pieces on the CMS (compound miter saw) with a stop block. I proceeded to position the stop block 2" away from the blade. I slid the 3' long blank up to the stop, and made my first cut with no support on the piece between the blade and stop-block. Well, I got away with it the first time, as I stopped the blade while it was still down, but I did notice it lifting up somewhat. Well I went to make the second cut and lifted the blade up while it was still on, and it caught the piece and threw it back at the wall behind it.

Had I been hand holding the piece to support it It very well could have sucked my fingers into the blade.

Had I been using a push stick to hold it down, it Could have drawn the stick into the blade causing it to kick back, and potentially put my hand where it shouldn't be.

There is no safe way to make the cut I was trying to make on a CMS, without a holdown, and even the pieces were too short to get a clamp that close to the blade with the guard.

Advice

Never cut anything you have to hold onto inside of the "No Hands Zone" on a Miter Saw. Never cut anything that could fit inside of a tooth gullet of the blade you are using (small dowels etc...) When using stop blocks, it's imperative to hold the piece between the blade and the fence securely. If you don't IT WILL KICK BACK.

Use a sharp high quality crosscut blade and keep it clean and free of pitch which will cause it to drag. Never put your hands inside of the NO HANDS ZONE.

Install a laser on your saw. They cost under 50 bucks these days and will let you visualize the cut line and where the blade will go.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Advanced

Injury Severity

Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was making a 45 degree cut (1x6), had my left arm crossed over to hold the wood on the right side (with the guard pulled back to see the faint line)when I realized this was a bad move. I let go of the trigger switch and the electric brake changed the torque of the machine and pulled the blade into the radial bone of my forearm. I also cut 3 tendons and most importantly, the radial nerve. I didn't realize how bad the cut was until I saw the x-ray. I must've flinched b/c the cut was larger on one end and I needed a bone graft to fill the void. I now have a stainless plate and 7 screws holding my bone together.

Advice

I always used to think of someone who got hurt b4 I worked on any power saw. I was having an argument with someone on the phone (my ex) an hour b-4 this happened and I was still going over the call in my mind when I forgot how dangerous this simple task is. I teach wood shop and I now have a big section called 'how it happens'. I have a list of about 20 things that can cause an accident that I teach to freshman. I now think about myself every time I am on a machine.

Tool Type

Mitersaw

Experience

Intermediate

Injury Severity

Close Call

Description

Was cutting 4-inch pieces off a 1x2. Put a stop on the right side of the saw, fed the 1x2 in from the left, swung saw down, up, retrieved piece, fed new wood in, repeat.

I started out releasing the trigger while the saw was in the down position, waiting for the blade to stop before raising it away from the cut wood. After a few pieces, started raising the blade while it was still turning. After a few more, still had my finger on the trigger while raising the blade.

On about the 15th piece, the newly-cut piece was grabbed by the blade and sucked up into the blade shroud (near the dust bag at the back). I released the trigger right away but the motor sounded like it was still going, so a yank on the power cord disconnected it from the wall.

When I finally got the saw disassembled and the mangled offcut piece removed, I discovered that one of the carbide teeth had been completely broken off the blade, and several others had damage from contacting the metal blade shroud. Of course, the blade shroud has a nice gouge to it. The motor never smelled hot, so once I get a new blade I can see if I've bent the arbor, in which case I have a new doorstop instead of a mitersaw.

Advice

The owner's manual recommends an auxiliary fence be used when making short offcuts to prevent them from being pulled up with the blade. They define "short" as "1 inch or less". The problem was that my offcuts were plenty long and wide, but thin enough (0.75 inches) to get sucked up while the rotating blade was being raised. An auxiliary fence would have been a good idea here.

I was lulled into a false sense of security when things went OK on the first few cuts. In this situation, especially when the offcut can get bound between the blade and a stop, always let the blade come to a stop before raising it to retrieve the offcut.