

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was cutting lathe out of a wall. The tip of blade hit lathe on the other side of the wall causing the saw to kick back in my hands. The blade landed on my index finger still moving. I was fortunate to only have a deep gash in my finger but I expected to not have a finger at all.

Advice

Be aware of everything that your tools could come in contact with. Maintain a strong grip on your power tools. Plan carefully.

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Close Call

Description

I was cutting a curved section of car sheetmetal while leaning on my left hand. The saw caught the metal wrong, jumped out of the cut and with my right arm still bearing down on the saw, it stabbed right toward my left hand but missed.

Advice

Keep your free hand and rest of self well clear of all danger zones, including any you might not really think of as being too close. Expect the unexpected, could happens and never rely on "I dont think so". Plan safely.

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I put a brand new bi-metal blade on the saw and picked it up by the handle with my left hand. The business end of the saw slipped down and the blade brushed my right thumb. I never think of recip saw blades as being particularly sharp, but this one sliced a dime-sized and very deep patch of skin right off my thumb. Two months later, that part of my thumb is still numb. The saw was not plugged in so I was being a bit careless.

Advice

Don't disregard safe practices just because the tool is unplugged.

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Advanced

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was cutting in an opening to relocate a door in a client's home. While nearing the end of the cut, a piece of lath started to "bounce" and I decided that I could hold it with my left hand while finishing the cut by operating the saw with my right. I only had about 1/2" to go, so it wouldn't be a problem. right? The saw bounced out of the cut and hit my left index finger. The doctor who sewed it up said that she could see bone, but the bone had not been cut at all. A year later, I have only a scar.

Advice

Always hold tools the way they were meant to be held. Usually that means with both hands.

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Needed Medical Attention

Description

I was using my reciprocating saw to cut some scrap black pipe to be disposed of. I only had a couple more to do, and it was getting ready to rain. Instead of clamping the pipe or having my helper hold the pipe securely off the ground; I lifted the pipe and placed the toe of my left boot under it and stood on it with my right and started cutting between my feet. The saw blade hit the ground, and I lost my grip with my left hand. I felt 2 gentle "bumps" on my left thumb. A few seconds later, my thumb disappeared under a gush of blood, and the pain started. Several stitches later, I was fine....but still 12 years later I have a groove on the side of my thumb and the nail never has grown back normally.

Advice

Do it the right and sensible way....don't take a stupid short cuts no matter how rushed you are.

Tool Type Reciprocating Saw

Experience Intermediate

Injury Severity Hurt but OK

Description

I was using a reciprocating saw to cut notches in metal shelving. It was an older model that used a set screw to hold the blade in. I had removed the side guard sometime ago because it was binding on the set screw. I was cutting my last shelf and my left thumb was caught between the chuck and front guard. I tore off skin down to the bone and smashed my bone from my first knuckle down. I lost my feeling at the tip for approx six months. I still have full use of my thumb and only have some scars left.

Advice

Never remove safety guards. Replace the tool or have it repaired.