

TOOLBOX TALK, December 22nd, 2025

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Check your training records at fsstools.com under the *Training Records* tab to see what you need. Sign up for classes, at the union training site or check schedules at fsstools.com.

Safety Slogan:

Have you submitted your 2026 Safety Slogan yet? If not, take a few minutes to come up with a great Safety Slogan, and submit your idea at fsstools.com/suggestions. If your slogan is selected, you'll win a \$100 gift card. Winners will be chosen in early January - so start brainstorming.

Protecting our Hands (Continued)

This week we're continuing to look at ways to keep our digits safe by doing some simple checking and planning before we get to work.

Use the right gloves

- *Cut /Abrasion Hazards:* Use gloves with cut level 4/puncture level 3 resistance for utility knives, glass, sheet metal.
- *Vibration:* Use anti-vibration gloves for impact tools like jackhammers.
- *Chemicals/Oils:* Nitrile or other chemical-resistant gloves (check the Safety Data Sheet for the material your using).
- *General Handling:* Gloves can prevent blisters and splinters from rough materials.

When NOT to wear gloves (High Risk)

- *Rotating tools:* Do not use gloves with drills and table saws, or tools that could catch the glove and suck it in.
- *Why:* Gloves can snag, wrap around the bit, and violently pull your hand into the cutting edge, causing severe injury.

Safety practices for all power tools

- *Secure Work:* Clamp or anchor materials to prevent slipping and kickback.
- *Full Speed:* Let the tool reach full speed before contacting the material.
- *Use Guards:* Ensure all safety guards are in place and working.
- *Disconnect Power:* Unplug or disconnect power when changing blades or accessories or performing maintenance.
- *Proper Attire:* Wear close-fitting clothes; remove rings and jewelry and tie back long hair.
- *Secure Grip:* Use two hands for control and maintain solid footing.
- *Tool Choice:* Use the right tool for the job; don't force it.

Understanding and using the practices listed above will help you keep your hands out of the line of fire, but the best practice of all is being aware of hazards before you start and taking the needed precautions.

Assured Grounding:

January marks the start of a new quarter, which means it's time to inspect all electrical equipment to ensure it's safe. Electrical safety is always a priority on the jobsite, but each quarter we place extra focus on reviewing electrical components with safety in mind.

Work with your foreman to get white tape and follow the Assured Grounding procedures, available at fsstools.com under *Assured Grounding*. Complete your inspection, fill out the required form, and submit it to finalize the process.

Electrical safety shouldn't be shocking.

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)