

TOOLBOX TALK, November 24th, 2025

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- **Carpenter's** - Nothing Scheduled
- **Tapers** - Nothing Scheduled

Check your training records at fsstools.com under the *Training Records* tab to see what you need.

To sign up for classes, visit swmsctf.org or check schedules at fsstools.com.

Thanksgiving and the Long Weekend

This Thursday marks Thanksgiving, the unofficial start of the holiday season. As we move quickly toward year-end, our workload continues to grow. With busier schedules, new job sites, and many new faces, it's essential that we all stay focused—both on getting the work done and doing it safely.

If you're a seasoned FSS team member, please keep an eye out for newer employees, including those who may have started recently and are still learning our safety culture. Not everyone arrives with the same level of safety awareness, so it's more important than ever that we stay alert, follow procedures, and look out for each other. Working safely means protecting ourselves *and* the people around us.

As we head into the long weekend, remember to properly roll up your work before heading out. Coming back on Monday with a clean, organized space helps us stay safe and avoid unnecessary issues. Part of working safely is maintaining the habits that keep us that way—taking a few extra minutes now to focus can save time and trouble later.

Powder Actuated Tools

Last week we had an incident, involving a powder actuated tool. The tool had been taken out of service because it was jammed. We think there were no pins in the tool, but a strip of loads was stuck in the tool. It made its way to the Connex and sat waiting to be taken back to the shop for service. When the foreman was loading up items to take to the shop, the tool fired. The cartridge end of the tool blew off and hit a computer monitor causing the screen to crack. This was a rare case, but it's worth remembering a few safety rules.

Remember when using Powder Actuated Tools:

- Only load a powder actuated tool at the place where it will be used, and only immediately before you intend to use it. Always unload it immediately after use.
- Never carry a loaded tool around a jobsite.
- Make sure the barrel of a tool is always pointed away from yourself and others.
- Lock up the tool after each use

Hand Safety

Probably our most important tools are our hands, so it's critical we take good care of them. In the last couple of years hand injuries have been on the rise.

Percent of Total Injuries Per Year

2021 - 8 hand injuries out of 34 total = 23%	2022 - 12 hand injuries out of 58 total = 21%
2023 - 6 hand injuries out of 44 total = 13%	2024 - 5 hand injuries out of 38 total = 13%
2025 - 12 hand injuries out of 44 total = 34%	

Hand injuries are up 21% so far over last year and up 16.5% so far over the last 4 years. If we want to reverse this trend, the answer is simple: Go back to the basics.

Wear your gloves. Use safer techniques, where your hands are not in the line of fire. Identify hazards and take steps to eliminate them. Plan your work. Communicate more clearly with your team. It may sound repetitive, but preventing hand injuries requires, staying mindful and keeping your hands out of the way.

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)