



Toolbox Talk: Cutoff Saws

Cutoff saws can also be referred to as "quickie saws." Cutoff saws are used for a variety of reasons in the construction trade, namely cutting steel rebar or concrete. Cutoff saws use a round cutting wheel/blade that may be used for concrete or metal and travel at extremely high speeds. The blade of the saw is an extremely dangerous object due to its rotating speed and unguarded cutting surface. Cutoff saws can be powered electrically, with gas engines, hydraulically, or with compressed air.

Training Required

- Always train cutoff saw operators
- Review the owner's manual during training
- Understand they present different hazards than chain saws and a tool with the capability to cut steel or concrete can most definitely injure an operator

Hazards

- Noise from machine and cutting action
- Vibration transmitted through handles
- Dust that contains silica from cutting concrete
- Flying projectiles and disc explosion from high RPM

Personal Protective Equipment

- Eye protection - projectiles/disc fragments
- Hearing protection - extreme noise
- Dust mask - silica exposure if cutting concrete
- Protective footwear - hazard of dropping tool
- Gloves - projectiles/vibration

Pre-Use Inspection

- Blade is not excessively worn, cracked, chipped or warped
- Belt and blade guards are present and adjusted
- Saw is fueled when cold
- All personal protective equipment is utilized prior to operation

Safe Practices when operating Cutoff Saws

- Use the saw only for its intended application
- Limit persons or bystanders in the area where cut-off saw is being used
- Always have guard in place while operating, adjust guard with the saw off before cutting
- Utilize wet methods when available to minimize exposure to silica when cutting concrete
- Wear respiratory protection when wet methods are not possible
- Use correct blades for material being cut and match blade RPM to saw RPM
- Remove cutting wheels when transporting a saw - transportation may damage a blade
- Fuel gasoline-powered saws only when the saw has cooled and use a funnel and gasoline can when fueling
- Start saw properly, on the ground - never "jerk start" cutoff saws
- Do not set saw down until the blade has stopped completely, never "hand off" a saw while the blade is still rotating!

Anyone have a question or comment about the usage of cut-off saws? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.

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Refer to local, state and or federal laws for complete standards and regulations regarding the topic.

TOOLBOX TALK SIGN IN FORM

Toolbox Topic Covered: Cutoff Saws

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Training led by: _____

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

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