

# Powder-Actuated Tools

## Safety Meeting Packet

### Protect Your Workforce



Powder-actuated tools can be extremely dangerous, because they operate like a loaded gun. Only specially trained employees may operate these tools, further emphasizing the level of care needed.

When using powder-actuated tools, an employee must wear suitable ear, eye, and face protection. The user must select a powder level that is appropriate for the tool and necessary to do the work

without excessive force.

### Firing Powder-Actuated Tools

The muzzle must have a protective shield or guard centered perpendicular to and concentric with the barrel to confine any fragments or particles that are projected when the tool is fired. A tool containing a high-velocity load must be designed not to fire unless it has this kind of safety device.

To prevent accidental firing, the operator must perform two separate motions. First, bring the tool into the firing position, and then pull the trigger. The tool must not operate unless it is pressed against the work surface with a force of at least 5 pounds greater than the total weight of the tool.

If the tool misfires, hold the tool in its operating position for at least 30 seconds before trying to fire it again. If it still does not fire, hold the tool in the operating position for another 30 seconds and then carefully remove the load in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Following this process will make the faulty cartridge less likely to explode. Place the faulty cartridge in water immediately after removal. If the tool develops a defect during use, it should be tagged and removed from service immediately until it is properly repaired.

### Safety Precautions

Powder-actuated tool users should follow these general recommendations for safe operation:

- Do not operate in an explosive or flammable environment.
- Inspect the tool prior to use. Ensure that the tool is clean, that moving parts operate freely, the barrel is free from obstructions, and it has the manufacturer recommended shield, guard, and attachments.
- Only load the tool when it is to be used immediately.
- Never leave a loaded tool unattended, especially when it could be available to unauthorized persons.
- Keep hands away from the barrel end and never point the tool at anyone.



### Using Fasteners

When using powder-actuated tools to apply fasteners, follow these precautions for safe use:

- Avoid firing fasteners into material that would allow the fasteners to pass through to the other side, unless they are backed by a substance that would prevent complete pass through.
- Fasteners shall not be driven into very hard or brittle materials, such as cast iron, glass block, or face brick that could cause chipping, splattering, or fastener ricochet.
- Use an alignment guide to shoot fasteners into existing holes.
- If using a high-velocity tool on material-like brick or concrete, do not drive fasteners more than 3 inches from an unsupported edge or corner.
- If using a high-velocity tool on steel, do not place fasteners any closer than ½-inch from an unsupported corner edge unless using a special guard, fixture, or jig.

## Training

- Each employee operating powder-actuated tools must be trained on proper use of the specific tool being operated and carry an operator's card to document certification.

## Storage

- Each powder-actuated tool must be stored in its own locked container when not being used.
- Tools must be left unloaded until they are ready to be used.

## Signage

- Prominently post a sign at least 7 inches by 10 inches with bold face type reading "**POWDER-ACTUATED TOOL IN USE**" when the tool is being used.

## Inspection

- Inspect all powder-actuated tools for obstructions, defects, and wear each day before use.

## Operator Safety

Powder-actuated tool operators are required to have and use appropriate personal protective equipment including:

- Hard hat
- Safety goggles
- Safety shoes
- Ear protection

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For additional information, please consult the following:

- OSHA Standard: 29 CFR 1926.302(e) - Power Operated Hand Tools
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# Powder-Actuated Tools Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department / Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meeting Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_  AM  PM  
 Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

### Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

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### Internal Procedures Reviewed:

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By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
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(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees Not Present: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions/Recommendations to Improve Workplace Safety and Health: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Disclaimer:**

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.

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