

# SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

# CONSTRUCTION SAFETY BREAKS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS: \_\_\_\_\_

DISCUSSION LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Today's Topic: Cold Chisels

Cold chisels are used to cut cold metal (metal not heated with a torch). Cold chisels are often used for tasks such as removing waste metal. Because using a cold chisel requires skill and coordination, injuries can happen when we miss striking the chisel with our hammer.

### Discussion: What are the hazards of cold chisels?

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### The Risks: Hand and Eye Injuries

Injuries to the hands occur when you don't strike the chisel head squarely. The hammer may glance off or miss entirely. The chisel may also slip when struck, causing injury. Worn chisels can also exaggerate this problem, making it more difficult to strike the chisel squarely.

Injuries to the eyes can occur when struck with flying chips from the metal being chiseled. We must take precautions to protect our eyes.

### Solution: Choose the Right Chisel

Make sure you have the right size chisel and hammer. Not having the right size for the job will make the job more difficult. Hand-eye coordination is critical to avoiding injury--having the wrong size tools makes that coordination much more difficult.

Make sure chisels are in good condition. Used chisels tend to mushroom on the struck end. This mushrooming creates an uneven striking surface which can cause the chisel to slip. Also make sure the working end is sharp. A sharp chisel will cut better and be less likely to slip.

Always wear safety glasses when using a cold chisel. This is a simple precaution we can take to make sure we don't get metal particles in our eyes. Remember, you only have two eyes; if you lose those, your life will never be the same.

If using large chisels and hammers which require two people, make sure the worker holding the chisel is using tongs, not his hands. A miss would cause severe injury to the hands.

If you have limited experience with these types of chisels, start slowly until you get the hang of it. A couple light practice swings can get you locked in.

## Always wear safety glasses when using a chisel!

What are the dangers of worn chisels?

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What is our procedure for handling mushroom chisels?

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