

Hand Tools

There is a huge range of hand tools, anything from a screwdriver to a cut-off saw.

Misuse and poor maintenance of hand tools results in countless injuries every year. Whilst many could be considered “minor”, some are very serious – all are avoidable.

- **Always** use the right tool for the job – we have had numerous serious cuts where individuals have used Stanley knives to cut cable ties – is a Stanley knife the right tool?
- **Only** use hand tools that are in good condition – as an example, we have had accidents with bolsters that have had a lot of use and have “mushroom heads”. Splinters have flown off into people’s eyes.
- **Always** use the right PPE for the risk; eye protection, head protection, etc.
- Some tools need special training – cartridge guns for example - don’t use unless you are trained.
- Keep your work area clear – store your tools correctly and put away if you’re not using them.

Discuss the range of tools in use on site, the risks when using the tools and the precautions that should be taken.

Remember:

**Minor incidents can result in major injuries –
A splinter from a mushroomed chisel head can blind you**

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 13