

Nail Gun Safety

Understanding the trigger mechanism of nail guns is the key to using them safely. Using the sequential trigger—in which you first depress the nailer nose against the workpiece and then pull the trigger to fire—reduces injuries. The bump trigger can result in misfires, double firing, and unintended firing and increase the risk for injuries. You and coworkers are also at risk for injury when nails shoot through or ricochet off materials.

Sam's Story

Sam, a roofer, was using a nail gun with a contact trigger (bump nailer) when a fellow worker walked by and accidentally bumped into him. The nail gun hit Sam's shoe, firing a nail into Sam's foot. He was rushed to the hospital. Sam had to wear a cast on his foot and was not able to return to work for a month. While his foot healed, he could stand for only short periods.

- ✘ **Have you or someone you know ever been injured by a nail gun misfiring? If so, what happened?**
- ✘ **How could this injury have been prevented?**

Remember This

- Use a nail gun with a sequential trigger instead of a contact trigger (bump nailer). Contact triggers don't save time overall, and they *cause twice as many injuries*.

- Keep the nail gun pointed away from your body and other people, especially when the air supply is connected.
- Disconnect the compressed air if you are:
 - leaving a nailer unattended
 - traveling up and down a ladder or stairs
 - passing the nail gun to a co-worker
 - clearing jammed nails
 - performing maintenance.
- Use a hammer if you cannot reach the work while holding the nailer with your dominant hand.
- When toe-nailing, do not try to hold the gun flush against the workpiece.
- Wear safety glasses manufactured as (or marked on the frame as) Z87+.
- Use hearing protection and wear steel-toe footwear.
- Get training on safe nail gun use.
- **NEVER** use a nailer with a broken or modified trigger. Don't remove or tamper with the spring in the workpiece contact.
- **NEVER** hold down the trigger unless you intend to fire, and never fire until the nose is firmly on the workpiece.
- **NEVER** rest the tool against your body or point it at anyone, even if it is empty or disconnected from the air supply.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent being injured by nail guns?

1. _____

2. _____

OSHA Standard: 28 CFR 1926.302

Nail Gun Safety



- ✘ Always use a nail gun with a sequential trigger. Contact triggers (bump nailers) cause twice as many injuries and overall don't save time.
- ✘ Always wear safety glasses manufactured as (or marked on the frame as) Z87+.
- ✘ When toe-nailing, never try to hold the gun flush against the workpiece.