



Powder Actuated Tools

HS99-139D(04-09)

A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

Powder actuated tools have the same operating characteristics as a loaded gun and should be treated with extreme caution. You should use powder actuated tools only if you have been trained in operating them. You must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as eye, ear, and face protection. Make sure the powder level of the tool, whether high or low velocity, is appropriate for the tool and will allow work to be done without excessive force. Check to ensure the muzzle end of the tool has a protective shield or guard on 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 this type of guard is in place.

Preventing Misfires

To prevent the tool from firing accidentally:

1. Bring the tool into the firing position and pull the trigger.
2. At this point, the tool should not operate until it is pressed against the work surface with a force of at least 5 pounds greater than the total weight of the tool.

In the case of a misfire, hold the tool in the operating position for at least 30 seconds before trying to fire again. If the tool misfires a second time, take the following steps:

1. Hold in operating position another 30 seconds.
2. Remove the load using manufacturer's instructions.
3. Submerge the bad cartridge in water immediately.

Safety Precautions

- Don't use the tool in an explosive or flammable environment.
- Always inspect the tool before using it.
- Don't load the tool unless you plan to use it immediately.
- Never leave a loaded tool unattended.



- Keep hands away from the barrel end.
- Never point the tool at anyone.

Applying Fasteners

If applying fasteners, follow these additional safety precautions:

- Don't put fasteners in material that will allow the fastener to pass through to the other side.
- Don't put fasteners into hard or brittle material that could chip or splinter. Doing so could cause the fastener to ricochet.
- If shooting fasteners into existing holes, always use an alignment tool.
- If using a high-velocity tool, don't drive fasteners closer than 3 inches to an unsupported edge or corner of material such as brick or concrete.
- If using a high-velocity tool, don't place fasteners in steel any closer than 1/2 inch from an unsupported edge unless a special guard, fixture, or jig is used.

Remember, practice safety, don't learn it by accident.