Nail Guns Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Research shows that risk of injury is twice as high using “contact” trigger nail guns compared to “sequential” trigger nail guns.
2. Electric powered nail guns are light in weight. However, they are not as powerful as the pneumatic or the combustion powered nail guns in their firing.
3. Using a nail gun with a bump or automatic trigger (also known as contact trip trigger) can result in unintended nail discharge.
4. Other risks include lack of training, working fast and keeping the trigger squeezed when not nailing. Using a nail gun with a single shot or full sequential trigger reduces the risk of injury.
5. Most injuries from nail guns are caused by the user accidentally striking the gun’s muzzle into a part of the body while holding the tool’s trigger switch.
6. There is a risk of nails penetrating the body:

   - by direct contact with the muzzle of a loaded gun
   - by deflection, when skewing off a hard surface
   - through soft or thin material.

STATS

- Nail guns are responsible for an estimated 37,000 emergency room visits across the United States every year.
- About 66 percent of nail gun injuries occur in framing and sheathing work in residential construction.
- A study of apprentice carpenters found that about 40 percent of them were injured on one occasion while using a nail gun during their four years of training.
- More than half of reported nail gun injuries involve the hands or the fingers.

- One-quarter of hand injuries involve structural damage to the tendons, joints, nerves and bones.
- After hands, the next parts of a worker’s body most likely to be injured in a nail gun-related incident are the leg, knee, thigh, foot and toes.
- Injuries have resulted in paralysis, blindness, brain damage, bone fractures and death.