Power Tool Safety Stats and Facts

FACTS

Common injuries caused by power tools include the following:

1. **Electric shock.** When using electric tools, workers are at risk of a shock that could cause heart fibrillation and burns or startle the worker to fall off an elevated work surface and suffer other injuries.
2. **Eye injuries.** Saws, sanders, grinders, and other similar tools produce debris that can hit a worker in the eye, causing serious and permanent damage.
3. **Puncture wounds and lacerations.** With even a slight slip of the hand, a nail gun, drill, saw, or other tool could easily puncture flesh, causing an injury that requires stitches, damages ligaments and tendons.
4. **Crushing injuries and amputations.** Electric saws, jackhammers, forklifts, and chippers have the power to crush a person who gets caught in machinery or cut off the limb of an operator.
5. **Repetitive-use injuries.** While power tools are designed to make tasks easier for the worker, you can still experience soft-tissue and repetitive injuries from long-term use. The vibration from a jackhammer can cause joint and nerve damage that could be permanent.
6. **Hearing loss.** Being exposed to the loud noises caused by power tools can cause permanent hearing loss.

STATS

Emergency room (ER) visits per year caused by Power Tools:

- Power nailers or nail guns: 37,000 emergency room visits/year

- John Deere-type Riding Lawn Mowers: 37,000 hospital visits a year
- Chain Saws: 36,000 ER visits/year
- Stationary Table Saws: 29,000 ER visits/year
- Snowblowers: 5,7000 ER Visits per year; 19 deaths
- Circular or Rotary Saws: 10,600 ER cases/year
- Power Drills: 5,800
- Yearly, there are over 960,000 injuries caused by power tools.
- There are over 200 deaths each year that are caused by power tools.
- 29,000 emergency room department visits were caused by table saw mishaps.
- Every year in the U.S., power tool injuries result in approximately 400,000 emergency room visits, including both work and non-work-related incidents. More than 22,000 of these power tool accidents involve workers using nail guns.