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Talk No: 22 Title: USE OF HAND TOOLS

Introduction: Misuse and poor maintenance of hand tools result in countless injuries every year. Whilst many may be considered "minor" - all are avoidable by complying with relatively simple procedures.

Main points:

- Only ever use the right tool for the job.
- Maintain all tools in a serviceable condition if unserviceable either repair or replace.
 Control/protect tools with obvious risks (Stanley knives, etc).

Discussion points:

- Use correct size spanners/sockets for nuts if using adjustables, be extra cautious as these are more prone to slipping.
- Always keep hands behind cutting edges when working.
- Grind down mushroomed heads of chisels, punches, etc to prevent splinters flying off.
- Do not use screwdrivers as chisels handles splinter.
- Replace split or damaged wooden handles do not tape or wire up.
- Regularly check hammer heads, etc for security of fixings.
- All files should be fitted with suitable wooden handles.
- Where necessary use specialist tools (insulated screwdrivers on live electrics).
- Protect sharp edges/points of tools.
- Keep tools in toolboxes or racks when not in use.
- Where applicable ensure suitable PPE is worn (eye protection, gloves, etc).

MINOR ACCIDENTS CAN RESULT IN MAJOR INJURIES (A SPLINTER FROM A MUSHROOMED CHISEL HEAD CAN BLIND YOU!)

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