

TOOLBOX TALKS

The Upside of Safety



SAFETY GLASSES & NAIL GUNS



(Nail ricochet into unprotected eyes)

Always wear safety glasses when using a nail gun or working around someone else who is.

Approximately 10% of injuries involving nail guns happen to the eye. These happen for a variety of reasons, including:

- Nail ricochets off a knot or steel
- Nail is shot at a shallow angle to the surface
- Nail hits and propels other material back into the operator's face
- Operator loses control of gun by "bump firing".
- Operator carrying nail gun with finger on trigger

HOW TO CAN THIS BE PREVENTED?

- Always wear safety glasses (Z-97 should be on glasses). The photo to the right shows safety glasses intentionally shot with a nail gun.
- Use a "sequential trigger" because it will only fire a nail when the controls are activated in a certain order.
- Always shoot the nail directly into the surface.
- Make sure the surface can contain the nail when fired. Avoid thin or less dense materials.
- Avoid shooting into areas with pre-existing nails or screws.
- Never carry the gun with your finger on the trigger.
- Always inspect and maintain your equipment.



(Z-87 Safety Glasses intentionally shot with a nail gun show that eyes would have been protected.)



A 26 year old Idaho construction worker died following a nail gun accident in 2007. He was framing a house when he slipped and fell. His finger was on the contact trigger of the nail gun he was using. The nose piece hit his head as he fell, driving a 3-inch nail into his skull. The nail injured his brain stem and caused his death.

