Hammer Safety

The hammer is one of the most commonly used tools in construction. Although it's low-tech, it is a common cause of injuries and accidents.

Kyle's Story

Kyle, a carpenter, was working on the roof of a house. As he began hammering, suddenly the head of the hammer came loose and struck his co-worker.

- **What could Kyle have done to prevent this incident?**
- **Do you know anyone who has been injured while using a hammer? If so, what happened?**

Remember This

- **ALWAYS** wear eye protection when using a hammer.
- Wear hearing protection if you are doing a lot of hammering.
- Check the hammer before use. If it has any defects, such as a loose head or cracked handle, do not use it.
- Make sure the area around you is clear and that no one is standing behind you.
- Use the right type of hammer for the job.
  - Use a claw hammer for driving nails. The claw part is suitable for pulling nails out.
  - Use hammers with electrically insulated handles for work on or around exposed energized parts.
  - NEVER strike hardened steel surfaces with a steel hammer.
  - Use a soft metal hammer or one with a plastic, wood, or rawhide head when striking steel surfaces.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from improper hammer use?

1. _____

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2. _____

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OSHA Standard: 1926.300

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- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes.
- Make sure the hammer's handle IS NOT loose or damaged.
- Use the right type of hammer for the job.

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