

## Circular Saws

**Circular Saws** offer the company time-saving convenience with adjustable cutting depths and tilting saw shoe for bevel sawing. But like all electrical tools, safety and proper usage are of the utmost importance. This powerful tool can cut fingers, arms, and legs, just as easily as it cuts wood or metal.

### Dangers of Circular Saws

Approximately 40,000 people go to emergency rooms for saw-related finger, hand, and arm injuries each year according to the Department of Labor. Nearly 4,000 of those injuries are amputations. Since table saws and circular saws present such considerable hazards to workers, we must take steps to keep the workplace safe. There are 5 main ways that you can effectively limit saw-related injuries:

- Never remove blade guarding. In as many as two-thirds of all injury cases, the blade guarding on the saw has been taken off. For table saws, guard the portions above and below the table. Also guard the power transmission apparatus, which includes the pulleys, chains, belts, and sprockets.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, or PPE. This includes eye and face protection.
- Inspect and maintain saws. Remove any cracked or damaged blades from service, make sure blades are sharp, use the right blade for the job, etc.
- Be safe and be trained. Training will teach you to recognize, report, and avoid hazards, like point of operation dangers that occur when a worker's hands enter the cut line.
- Follow all manufacturing guidelines.

### Points to Remember:

- Don't disable the blade guard—use all guards as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Wear proper eye protection when operating the saw.
- Don't wear loose fitting clothes that could get caught in the saw.
- Be sure electrical plugs, cords, and outlets are grounded.
- Keep hands away from cutting areas.
- Replace all damaged, worn, or broken parts before using the saw.
- Keep your work area clean. Throw away cut-offs and clean up sawdust as it accumulates.
- Pay attention to your work.
- Keep saw blades clean and sharp. If you force the cut, the blade may become dull.
- Use only correct size blades, blade washers, and bolts.
- Always unplug the saw when changing blades or servicing.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions.

