

# SafetyToolboxTalks

## BRIESER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SITE SAFETY MEETING - TOOL BOX TALK

### Introduction

**M**iter cut-off saws are commonly known as “Chop Saws” to craftsman everywhere. This versatile tool is used primarily by trim and finish carpenters and cabinetmakers. Sometimes, high performance framing crews will have a chop saw on the job. The most common version seen on building projects has a 10 inch blade, although they come much bigger. Besides cutting any wood products, chop saws will cut vinyl and aluminum and plumbers used them to cut plastic ABC and PVC pipe. These great little saws are extremely portable and speed up any cutting process. However, their high RPM speeds combined with a fine toothed carbide steel blade is a powerful piece of machinery that must be treated with careful respect. Safe work practices must be implemented and used in order to avoid serious injury.

***OSHA regulations state that*** “All woodworking tools and machinery shall meet applicable requirements of American National Standards Institute (“ANSI, Safety Code for Woodworking Machinery”).



### *Follow these Safety Guidelines when using a “Chop Saw:”*

- ✚ ***Do not ever***, under any circumstances, allow anyone to use a chop saw that has not been properly instructed and approved in the process of its safe operation.
- ✚ ***Prior to its use***, do a visual and operational inspection to ensure safe mechanical function of the saw.
  - ***Make certain*** all blade guards are in place and working smoothly. Removing or pinning back guards is not only extremely hazardous; it is considered a serious safety violation.
  - ***Check the blade*** to be sure it is straight and that the arbor belt is tight.
  - ***Ensure*** the “constant-pressure” trigger switch operates properly.
  - ***Check that*** the electrical cords, plugs and fittings are intact and secure. Frayed cords be sure that arbor wrenches or keys were not inadvertently left behind on the machine during a blade change. are not permissible.
  - ***The best way*** to clean the filter is to use an air compressor, but if one is not available, just tap filter against your hand.
  - ***Pull out*** the paper filter and repeat the same way as the foam filter.
  - ***Replace*** filter and make sure cover is screwed on tightly.
  - ***Check blade guard***, make sure the inside of the guard is free of hardened concrete dust, if clogged up break loose with a screwdriver and hammer.

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- ***Make sure*** blade is on tight, check this by spinning blade by hand and wiggling the blade.
  - ***During use***, stop once in a while and check blade to see if it becomes loose, also check blade guard to make sure it is not clogged with material.
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- ✚ ***When setting- up*** the cutting station, it is important that the saw is positioned in a manner that the work piece's point of contact with the cutting edge can be easily viewed without straining or stooping.
  - ✚ ***Make sure the work-zone*** is level and free of no trip hazards such as tangled power cords, cluttered material piles, scraps, stones, bricks, or other obstacles and obstructions. Avoids unsafe distractions by setting up away from high traffic areas.
  - ✚ ***Ensure the saw's table*** or platform being used is stable and does not wobble. Be sure that the accessory benches (for cutting long stock) are steady and sturdy; get assistance when needed.
  - ✚ ***During cuts***, keep blade speeds at recommended levels; over-pressure on cuts will create hazardous situations.
  - ✚ ***Hearing protection*** is required do to extreme sonic and acoustical levels generated, especially extended cutting.
  - ✚ ***Eye protection*** must always be worn when using a chop saw.
  - ✚ ***Depending on*** material being cut, a dust mask may be required.
  - ✚ ***Wear clothing appropriate*** with chop saw use; avoid long, loose shirtsleeves, neckwear, or untied long hair.
  - ✚ ***If any operating problems*** are noted, remove saw from service, tag it, and get it out of service immediately.
  - ✚ ***Proper care and maintenance*** should always be given the saw. Damage usually occurs during careless transport, handling, and storage of the tool.
  - ✚ ***Allow only Qualified*** personnel to make repairs to the saw.

## Conclusion:

**C**hop saws are excellent accessory to any woodworking operation. But if good sense and caution are not used, a 10 inch carbide tipped blade doing 10,000 RPM can result in serious injury. To avoid such hazardous situations, follow these safe guidelines.

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## BRIESER CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MEETING

Week of:

Job Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Specific Topics:

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Crew Safety Recommendations:

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Reviewed MSDS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Attended By: (Print your Name)


Supervisor/Foreman: \_\_\_\_\_