

Incident Alert

Fatality Notification

While operating a pneumatic nail gun on a construction site, a worker died from a penetrating skull injury.



Nail guns are useful tools for fastening wood and other materials together quickly and efficiently. Nail guns are available in different sizes and configurations depending on the application. Gas canisters or compressed air systems generally power them.

The advantage of nail guns is their ability to fire fasteners into underlying layers, rapidly and repeatedly. This rapid fire presents a hazard to workers.

An increasing number of nail gun operators injure themselves and nearby workers. Most injuries are to hands and fingers, but some are to other body parts. The potential for serious injury or fatality increases with nails shot into the chest, face, eye, head, or abdomen.

Causation:

Workers using contact trip guns could keep the trigger depressed while walking or moving around. If the gun tip accidentally hits a surface, the nails will fire and can directly strike or ricochet, hitting the operator or another worker.

Prevention:

Occupational health and safety regulations require employers to train their workers to use equipment, following the safe operation information provided by the manufacturer.

The WSCC is committed to safety. For more information on workplace health and safety, call us toll-free or visit our website.

