Hazard ALERT

Hazard Summary

Cutting Injuries

On a summer's morning in June, a worker with a power saw was cutting a 1" x 8" piece of wood that was located over their head at an awkward angle. Once the worker succeeded in cutting off a 12" piece of the wood, it fell and they immediately reached to catch it. The worker's fingers crossed paths with the power saw that was in their other hand; the worker severed four fingertips and eventually lost two of them.

A report on the injury was filled out with the Workers' Safety & Compensation Commission.

Safe Work Practices:

- When planning to cut something, make sure the surrounding area is clear of people or obstructions (so falling pieces of wood won't cause any harm or damage);
- Brace the most stable part of the wood with one hand and cut away from your limbs or body parts with the other;
- Never try to catch falling pieces of wood or do anything similar while using the power saw;
- Turn it off immediately after you finish cutting.