

Safety Spotlight

Practical tips to keep you safe

Don't Rush It

Rushing through a job without taking the time to do it safely can lead to injuries. Almost all of us have been guilty of racing through a job at one time or another. Here are some hurry up acts that can lead to injuries:

- didn't wear safety glasses because the job would only take a few minutes;
- used the wrong ladder because the proper one was too far away;
- didn't use the proper lockout procedures because no one was around and it was easy to fix alone;
- used a wrench instead of a hammer because the hammer was in the tool box on the other side of the room;
- cut the grounding prong of a three-way ground wire plug because there wasn't an adapter;
- removed a guard to repair the machine or prepare it for a special run and didn't get around to putting it back yet;
- reached just a little bit further on the ladder because there wasn't time or energy to get down and move it;
- didn't unplug a power tool before making adjustments because it would only have to be plugged in again anyway;
- used a dull saw blade for just one more cut;
- laid a board full of nails down with the full intention of bending the nails over in a minute;
- climbed up the side of a bin instead of getting a ladder; or
- didn't slow down at a blind corner this time because no one has been there before.

Does any of this sound familiar? Sometimes we may experience a "near miss." However, eventually a serious injury will happen because it is only a matter of time. Is it worth risking our eyes, our limbs or our life or someone else's to save a few minutes on the job? Hurry up can hurt.

Let's review some safe working practices:

- **use personal protective gear when necessary;**
- **take the extra steps needed to do the job properly;**
- **always use the correct tool for the job;**
- **check to make sure safety guards are in place;**
- **follow lockout/tagout procedures as if a life depends on it – it does;**
- **keep the worksite tidy;**
- **return tools to their proper place;**
- **use proper lifting techniques; and**
- **be alert to ways in which the workplace can be safer.**

***Remember, practice safety.
Don't learn it by accident.***

