

INTRODUCTION

Jackhammers are a common sight on many jobsites as they are useful tools for breaking apart hard surfaces such as concrete. Due to how a jackhammer functions and the respirable crystalline silica dust that is produced from the jackhammering process, employees could potentially be exposed to harm. Following the safe work practices presented in this lesson will help ensure employee safety.



TYPES OF JACKHAMMERS

Depending on the jobsite, employees could use one of the following jackhammers:

- Pneumatic
- Hydraulic
- Electric

HAZARDS

When operating or working near a jackhammer, employees could potentially be exposed to some of the following hazards:

- Development of hand-arm vibration syndrome
- Electric shock or electrocution (from contact with underground utilities)
- Exposure to gas (from contact with underground utilities)
- Cuts, lacerations, or puncture injuries
- Slipping, tripping, or falling
- Noise-induced hearing loss
- Eye irritation or damage
- Exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Employees should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, which may include:

- Safety glasses or goggles
- Reflective vest or jacket
- Hard hat
- Hearing Protection
- Steel-toed shoes
 - It is recommended that employees wear a metatarsal guard over a boot or wear boots that come with the metatarsal guard already provided.
- Respirators
- Gloves (It is recommended that employees use vibration-dampening gloves.)
- Long pants and sleeves





JACKHAMMER SAFETY

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

Before operating a Jackhammer, employees should do the following:

- Ensure that long hair has been tied back and remove all jewelry.
- Ensure that all utilities lines have been identified in the area where jackhammering is to take place.
- Inspect the jackhammer for damage, including any bits that are to be used. Report damaged jackhammers or bits to your supervisor. Do NOT operate a damaged jackhammer or bit.
- Sharpen bits as needed.
- Ensure all manufacturer-provided guards are in place and secure. Report jackhammers with missing guards to your supervisor. Do NOT operate a jackhammer that has missing guards.
- Inspect extension cords for damage. Report damaged extension cords to your supervisor. Do NOT use a damaged extension cord.

When operating a jackhammer, employees should do the following:

- Only trained and authorized employees should be operating a jackhammer.
- Ensure the area where jackhammering operations are to take place are blocked off.
- Use the appropriate jackhammer for the task.
- Use an extension cord with the appropriate length for the job.
- Ensure that all cords are safely out of the way of walkways.
- Operate the jackhammer in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use two hands to operate a jackhammer.
- Keep hands and fingers away from pinch areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings and placement of the bit.
- Ensure that appropriate methods of silica dust control are being used to reduce or eliminate the amount of silica dust being produced and thrown into the air.
- Lift the jackhammer with your legs, not your back.
- Ensure to take breaks to help reduce the chances of developing conditions associated with continuous vibration exposure.
- Ensure a jackhammer has been powered off and disconnected from the power source if you need to leave the area.

When operating a jackhammer, employees should NOT do the following:

- Do NOT leave a jackhammer powered on while unattended.
- Do NOT use a jackhammer in wet weather conditions.
- Do NOT force the tool. Forcing the tool could result in the loss of control or cause bits to break.
- Do NOT place hands or other body parts near rotating or moving parts.
- Do NOT touch steel parts during or immediately after operation, as the metal may have become hot and touching could result in burns.

CONCLUSION

While jackhammers are useful tools, employees could potentially develop conditions associated with continuous exposure to vibrations, electric shock, burns, be exposed to silica dust, etc. By following the safe work practices presented in this lesson, employees can help minimize the chances of an accident occurring when operating a jackhammer.





Builders' Exchange
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Safety Meeting Report

Employer _____

Date _____

Location _____

Meeting Supervisor _____

Safety Meeting Subject: _____

Accidents Reviewed: _____

Suggestions: _____

Employee's Attending

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____