Everyday Safety

*Tailgate Talks*

**Hand Tool Safety**

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*series “The Safety Pins” by Phillip E. Spiezio, Washington County Safety Officer*

Almost all of us use some sort of hand tool to perform a certain type of task every day. However, the use of tools are a contributing factor to many injuries when used incorrectly.

The following are a few helpful tips that will allow you to perform this type of work safely:

* Use the correct tool for the job. A screw driver is not a pry bar!
* Keep tools clean and in good condition.
* Use and maintain power tools according to their instructions.
* Make sure power tools are properly grounded or are double insulated. Never cut off the

ground plug.

* Switch off, unplug, and lockout power tools before servicing the tool, changing blades or

switching out attachments.

* Wear tight fitting clothing - no strings or loose ends to get entangled.
* Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Safety glasses, protective clothing, face shields, goggles, hearing protection, dust masks, etc.
* Keep bystanders at a safe distance. Do not walk up to someone without obtaining their

attention from a safe distance first.

* Unplug and store tools in a safe place after use.
* Do not place any tools on top of your stepladder because it is too easy to forget they are there when moving it!

**Above all else - be sure your brain is engaged before putting your body into motion!!!**



*Everyday Safety Tailgate Talks are published by the Cornell Local Roads Program in cooperation with the National Local Technical Assistance Association and participating partner organizations.*

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***Related Topics:***

* **Ladder Safety**

***Resources and References:***

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