Applying Force

Expect the unexpected. When applying force using tools on equipment or objects, where resistance is expected, anticipate that the tool might slip or the object to which pressure is being applied may suddenly give way.

Practices to help avoid injuries:

- Expect the unexpected by anticipating the line of fire of any tool or equipment being used, and keep the area as clear as possible.

- Assess and reduce hazards in the work area such as slippery surfaces, protruding objects, unguarded edges, etc…

- Be well balanced when applying force to a tool or object. A sudden release of force can throw you off balance, possibly falling into another object which may cause injury.

- Recognize pinch points and avoid placing your hands and fingers in such hazardous spots.

- Don't work in an awkward position. You may not have complete control of the tool or the material you are working on.

- Never alter a tool in a manner that reduces its effectiveness or safety.

- Select the right tool for the job. Every tool has a purpose and proper selection will prevent misuse and injury.

- Inspect tools for damage before and after each job. Replace defective tools immediately.

- Always keep tools and equipment clean. Oil can cause slippage from an object or out of your hands. Dirt and grime can impair the movement of a tool, requiring more pressure.

- Keep all people not involved with the work at a safe distance from the work area.

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."