Goals: This safety session should teach you to:
   A. Understand the hazards of portable power tools.
   B. Know how to work safely with portable power tools.

OSHA Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.242

1. Ignoring Safety With Portable Power Tools Can Cause Injuries
   A. Injuries may include:
      1. Contact with points of operation, such as saw blades
      2. Electrical shock, fire, or electrocution
      3. Eye injuries from flying chips, dust, or shavings
      4. Dropping a tool on a body part or straining too hard to lift a heavy tool

2. Tool Design Provides Some Protections
   A. Leave all guards in place. OSHA requires guards for tools like circular saws and belt sanders.
   B. Use instant-off switches that keep the tool running only when you’re using it.
   C. Take your finger off the switch when you carry a plugged-in tool.

3. Use the Right Tool for the Job
   A. Match the tool and its capacity to the work task.
   B. Check the manufacturer’s manual for tool functions and limitations.

4. Use Only Tools That Are in Good Working Order
   A. Inspect tools before use to make sure they’re in working order, with no missing parts.
   B. Keep tools sharp, clean, and in good condition.

5. Practice Electrical Safety
   A. Check that tool cords have good insulation; if not, don’t use the tool.
   B. Protect the cords.
      1. Keep cords away from sharp edges, heat, or anything that could cause damage.
      2. Don’t carry the tool by its cord or yank the cord from an outlet.
   C. Match plugs and outlets.
   D. Keep tools away from flammable liquids or waste; use non-sparking tools when necessary.
   E. Don’t handle tools with wet hands or use tools in wet areas; water can make you an electrical conductor.
   F. Turn off the tool and the power source before adjusting or fixing the tool.
6. Use Personal Protective Equipment
   A. Wear safety goggles; and, if you’re creating a lot of dust, wear a respirator suitable for the hazard.
   B. Wear safety toed shoes.
   C. Don’t wear loose clothes, loose hair, gloves, or jewelry that could get caught in the point of operation.

7. Use Tools Safely
   A. Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
   B. Keep moving parts and sharp edges away from your body.
   C. Use a vise or clamps to secure materials, so both hands can operate the tool.
   D. Turn off a tool before you put it down.

8. Practice Good Housekeeping
   A. Keep cords off the floor, so they don’t become tripping hazards.
   B. Keep the work area clean; place combustible trash in closed containers.
   C. Store power tools properly when not in use.
   D. Don’t leave a tool where it could be turned on accidentally or fall on someone.

Summation: Don’t Treat Power Tools As Toys

Practice all aspects of machine and electrical safety to prevent injuries.