

Safety Flash

Incident with recordable injury

Incident: The associate was cutting lumber for a job-built filler on Symons panels. He secured a 16-foot 2x4 and ripped a portion to a 1½ x 1½-inch cross section, then cut a 1-foot 9-inch piece from the rip. At that time, he realized the piece needed to be beveled. To cut the bevel, he placed the short piece of wood on the plywood workbench and held the far end with one hand as he operated the saw with his other hand. When he could not cut any farther, he moved his hand underneath to support the wood to complete the cut. When he started the saw, the sawblade caught the plywood work surface and kicked back, cutting his hand in two places.



Possible contributing factors:

- The worker was ripping an unsecured short piece of lumber – 1 foot, 9 inches long.
- The associate did not make both rip cuts on a secured 2x4.
- The blade depth was not properly set, allowing the blade to contact the plywood.
- Because the associate did not secure the piece, he had to hold the piece in one hand and the saw in the other hand.
- The associate may have become complacent and did not recognize the hazard of ripping a short piece due to his several years of experience using saws.
- The bevel cut required more blade contact with the material – and therefore, more force to make the cut.

Primary contributing factors:

- The associate did not make both rip cuts on a secured 2x4.
- The associate may have become complacent and did not recognize the hazard of ripping a short piece due to his several years of experience using saws.

Possible solutions:

- Plan the work so you are not ripping a short piece of lumber.
- Set the saw depth correctly.
- When ripping dimensional lumber, secure the piece with screws, nails or clamps.
- Develop communication/training on safe saw use and hazard recognition for field associates.

Action plan:

- A group of carpenters will develop a saw awareness program and provide training on all projects.
- A safety stand-down was held on the project with follow-up Monday, 9/16/19.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.