



## TOOLBOX TALK: CUT-OFF SAW SAFETY

# Proper Handling and Operation

Cut-off saws are frequently used in the Construction industry and can be extremely dangerous because unguarded blades operate at very high speeds. Only personnel who have been trained on proper use and handling should be allowed to operate this specialized piece of equipment.

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

#### DO:

- Use safety shoes, fitted clothing, safety glasses, hearing protection, face shield, and a hard hat while operating the saw.
- Keep water continuously running on the blade while cutting concrete or asphalt to keep dust concentration below the established exposure limits.
- Follow manufacturer's recommended blade specifications for materials to be cut.
- Inspect the cutting blade for warping and damage before startup and clean the air filter.
- Run the saw at full throttle and use the bottom of the blade while cutting.
- Test newly mounted blades at normal operating speed for 30 seconds, with guard in place, before beginning use.
- Use caution when handling fuel. Do not add fuel while saw is running or near an ignition source.
- Keep all parts of your body away from the blade while it is running.

- Run saw for 30 seconds after finishing a cut to allow water to be thrown off the blade.
- Keep good balance and footing, using both hands and keeping a firm grip on the handles.
- Ensure that the blade does not become pinched in the cut.

#### DO NOT:

- Allow bystanders in the work area while using the saw.
- Cut in the vicinity of anything flammable as most cutting procedures produce sparks.
- Use the saw without the blade guard in place.
- Exceed the maximum operating speed marked on the blade.
- Cock, jam, or wedge the blade into a cut.
- Grind on the side of the blade or cut with the top or front of the blade.
- Operate a damaged, improperly adjusted or improperly balanced saw.
- Cut dry except with a blade specifically designated for dry cutting by the manufacturer.

# We Are Here

Do you have a question about safety and health? Contact us and we can assist you.  
[safeatwork.mo.gov](http://safeatwork.mo.gov)

I understand the information presented and the importance of properly operating and handling this piece of equipment. I will operate saws in a safe and responsible manner.

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Learn more ways to keep your workplace safe.  
Visit [safeatwork.mo.gov](http://safeatwork.mo.gov).

