



**Power Tools SWP 016**

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**A. Purpose**

The purpose of this safe work practice is to provide proper guidance regarding the use of power tools as to reduce the potential for bodily injury and/or damage to District 22 equipment.

**B. Application**

The conditions and requirements of this safe work practice shall be applied at all District worksites where workers are required to use power tools.

All power tools and equipment provided by third party service companies shall be suited to the task, in serviceable condition and otherwise free of any defect that has the potential to cause injury to personnel or damage to equipment. This provision shall also cover the unacceptable removal of the full guard from power tools, such as hand held grinders used extensively in the welding discipline.

**C. Practice**

When performing activities that require the use of power tools, and with prevention of injuries to workers in mind, the following safety tips are provided in anticipation that user awareness may be increased so as to reduce the potential for bodily injury and/or damage to equipment:

- Inspect all power tools, electrical extension cords, or high pressure hoses before use. Power tools must have appropriate guards in place at all times;
- Do not operate power tools and equipment unless the constant hand or finger pressure control is operative;
- Ensure you have a general understanding of how to operate the power tool prior to using it;
- Ensure all electrical tools are grounded by means of a third wire or are CSA listed as a double-insulated tool;
- Remove electric power tools, extension cords, and equipment showing worn, deteriorated, or inadequate insulation from service until suitably repaired;



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

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- Never use electric tools on storage or volume tanks, high pressure lines, etc., until the tanks or lines are depressurized and confirmed to be free of explosive, toxic, or hazardous materials, or other suitable safety measures have been taken;
  - Ensure all electrical outlets are equipped with ground fault interruption protection;
  - Remove pneumatic driven tools, high pressure hose, and equipment showing worn, deteriorated, or unserviceable connections from service until suitably repaired;
  - Where there is a danger of explosion or fire, the use of pneumatic power tools is preferred. Regardless, continuous atmospheric monitoring along with hot work permit procedures (if applicable) must be in place;
  - Personnel using pneumatic tools must ensure that the source of air supply pressure does not exceed the working pressure or operating capacity of the respective tool;
  - Ensure adequate air supply requirements to effectively operate the tool are available;
  - Ensure that power tools are not left around the immediate work area where they can become a hazard to the user, or where they may be inadvertently damaged;
  - Ensure power tools are suitably protected from excessive heat, extreme cold, or moisture, or any environmental condition identified by the manufacturer;
  - Only use power tools for the purpose for which they were designed; and
  - Ensure all appropriate safety equipment and PPE is being worn with respect to the tool being used.

#### D. Related References

- British Columbia Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Part 12: Tools, Equipment, and Machinery Sections 12.1 – 12.141.  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Home.asp>.