



## 6-minute safety talk for plumbing

### Instructor Guide

#### Tools, grinding and welding

##### Topic Overview (why the topic is important to the students)

The tools of the trade for plumbers, from hand tools to power tools, grinders and welding equipment all have the potential to cause serious injury.

Note: This is just an overview - specific safety instruction should be provided with training on each tool and piece of equipment.

##### Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- Discuss** the various tools that present hazards in the shop.
- Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out the hazards.
- Distribute** the student handout.
- Review** the safety tips.
- Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of injury from various tools (e.g., good tool maintenance, written safe work procedures, work stations arranged to reduce the risk of injury).
- Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience or use the following examples:
  - A plumber was trying to loosen a frozen bolt, using a hammer to strike against a wrench. The head of the hammer, which was loose, flew off, striking a co-worker in the face and causing him to lose vision in one eye.
  - A plumber, welding in a poorly ventilated area, lost consciousness when she was overcome by fumes. She was pulled to safety by a co-worker.
- Discuss** the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about tools.
- Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

##### Resources

- Regulation – Part 12 Tools, Machinery and Equipment  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part12.asp>
- Welding gas tanks  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/pdfs/1989/ha8905.pdf>
- Abrasive wheel on grinder breaks  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/pdfs/2004/ha0415.pdf>