



## 6-minute safety talk for woodworkers

### Instructor Guide

#### Guarding

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

Woodworking is inherently dangerous due to the nature of the work processes used to cut, form, and shape wood and composite materials. In a split second, the tools of the trade are capable of inflicting serious and disabling injuries. Effective point of operation safeguarding must be used to reduce the risk of injury to the operator. Over a recent five-year period, there were 208 amputations and 1048 serious cut and laceration injuries in the woodworking industry in B.C. Injuries associated with unguarded equipment and machinery often result in amputations, disfigurement, or death.

#### Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** the hazards or tasks in the shop that exist if appropriate guarding is not used.
- **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out the hazards and types of guarding.
- **Distribute** the student handout.
- **Review** the safety tips. If time allows, discuss the list of safe work practices.
- **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience or use the following examples:
  - A woodworker was cutting a piece of composite material on an unguarded table saw. The material kicked up, and when the worker reached out to stabilize the piece, one hand inadvertently contacted the rotating blade. He suffered an amputation of two fingers and part of a third.
  - A worker was using a sliding table panel saw equipped with a blade guard. He moved the guard out of position to see the cut, exposing the blade. As he completed a cut, his hand contacted the blade, amputating two fingers.
- **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 guarding hazards.
- **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

#### Resources

- Safeguarding Table and Panel Saws [http://www2.worksafebc.com/PDFs/small%20business/CrewTalk/crew\\_talk\\_safeguarding\\_basics.pdf](http://www2.worksafebc.com/PDFs/small%20business/CrewTalk/crew_talk_safeguarding_basics.pdf)
- Guarding for Woodworking – audio slide show <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/SmallBusiness/SafetyforBusiness.asp?ReportID=34411>