



THE

# CONNECTION

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## Nail Guns Can Be Lethal Weapons



### Man Shot in Head By A Nail Gun

A Shawnee, Kansas man was accidentally shot in the top of the head by a 2.5 inch nail, Friday, June 6, 2008.

George Chandler and a friend were working on a backyard project when the nail gun hose became tangled, causing the nail gun to fire once. Chandler told his friend that he didn't know where the nail went, but he felt a sting on the top of his head.

They called an ambulance, when they discovered that the nail had been driven into Chandlers skull. Chandler was rushed to the hospital, where doctors removed the nail with a common claw hammer.

Chandler's family said that if the nail had entered his head just a millimeter lower, the nail could have left him paralyzed or caused serious damage to his speech or eyesight.

Chandler said he feels "very, lucky, very, very lucky" to have escaped serious injury.

With a squeeze of a trigger, they can drive anything from a small finishing nail into a piece of plywood to a three inch nail into wood and concrete block. Nail guns have the capacity to fire several nails per second at a velocity over 1,000 feet per second. When this projectile strikes a human body, the resulting damage can be severe, and sometimes fatal. Exercise extreme caution whenever using a nail gun.

Always wear safety glasses when operating pneumatic tools including nail guns. Make sure your helpers wear them too.

NEVER dismantle or bypass safety devices such as triggers, guards, or bumpers.

Do not hold the trigger down unless you're purposely firing the tool. Do not fire the tool unless the nose is firmly pressed against a work piece.

Never point the tool at anyone. Treat a nail gun like a firearm. Always assume it is loaded and ready to fire.

Always point the gun away from you when nailing materials. Never back nail materials with the tip of the gun pointing toward your body.

Make sure the area behind the nailing is clear and protected from a nail entering through.

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#### Good Safety Habits Begin With YOU

Good safety habits don't just happen. They have to be learned. And you can help promote them by stressing a "24x7" safety message.

When you think about it, safety isn't something that should begin when you check in and end when you clock out. If accidents and injuries take place at home, the effect is no less tragic for you than the accident that happens at work.

\* Fire Safety. Have a home fire evacuation plan and conduct drills so that everyone knows what to do.

\* Slips, trips, and falls. Alert people to the areas where these accidents are most likely to happen. Use nonskid materials for high hazard floor areas and ensure that stairways have secure handrails and are well lit.

\* Hazardous materials. Just as MSDSs and labels are important at work, product information is vital at home, too. Stress safe storage as well as usage.

\* Emergency response. Sign up for first aid training. People who know what to do in an emergency tend to know what can happen to cause those emergencies. And the result is a greater respect for safety "24x7".



## HARD HAT HISTORY

Like almost everything else, the hard hat has an interesting history. It was first used by the Romans, way back in A.D. 300, near the Circus Maximus.

A huge Egyptian pillar was being erected there - but those working on the project were having trouble getting it off the ground. Workers were being injured by falling objects.

Finally a construction worker came up with the perfect solution - wear soldiers' battle helmets. They were metal and they worked pretty well.

Of course, these early hard hats were not half as safe or effective as the hard hats we have now. Today's hats are lightweight but sturdy. And the suspension straps help minimize the effects of any blow.

Without a doubt, we are better protected than those early construction workers ever were. That is, we're safer and better protected when we wear the hats.

Those who refuse to wear a hard hat in a hazardous area aren't safe at all. They're just plain foolish. The risks they're taking just aren't worthwhile.

Don't you take a chance. Make use of one of the best protective devices ever invented. Whether you're working in or just passing through a hard hat area, put a hard hat on.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Connection. To submit articles and/or topic ideas, please call: (269) 629-9708 or send to P.O. Box 460, Richland, Mi 49083. Also visit our website at: [www.CLS-Skilledlabor.com](http://www.CLS-Skilledlabor.com)

## Don't Blow Your Safety Record With Compressed Air

Air tools can almost be described as supertools. Their great force is provided by compressed air.

There is a wide variety of air tools ranging from staplers to drills. Tools driven by compressed air break up concrete, spray coatings and drive nails. They are attached to air hoses carrying the pressurized air from a compressor to the tool.

Compressors can be dangerous if they produce air pressure exceeding what the receiving vessel can take. Hoses and gaskets can be ruptured and tools damaged. An explosion can occur.

Compressed air can cause injury or death on contact with the body. It can strike the eyes, causing blindness. If it enters the ears, it can cause deafness. If penetrating the skin, it can cause serious internal damage.

Because of such hazards, compressed air and air tools should be used safely.

Compressed air locations should be marked with warning signs. Proper label and color coding should be put on compressed air lines. Compressed air hoses must not extend across traffic areas where vehicles and pedestrians might run over them.

Wear the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while using compressed air and air tools. To protect your eyes from the effects of compressed air and flying debris, wear safety eyewear. Because of the shrill noise of air tools, you may also need to wear hearing protection.

Make sure air lines and equipment are working properly and are correctly connected and secured before you start using them. Air hoses

whipping around cause serious injuries. Leaks in air line and at joints should be repaired immediately. All air hoses, nozzles and other parts of the equipment should be in good condition.

Training in the use of compressed air and air tools is a must. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions

