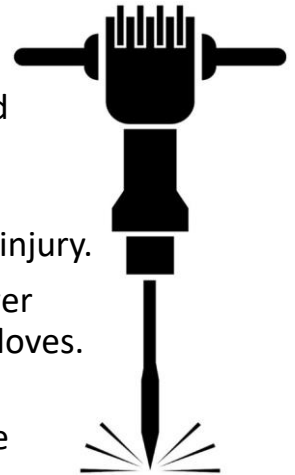


If safety precautions are not taken seriously, jackhammers and handheld powered chipping tools can be dangerous.

- Major safety risks include flying debris, fatigue, sprains and strains, abrasions and lacerations, harmful vibrations, respiratory hazards, hazardous noise exposure, and electrocution.

Safety tips when jackhammers and chipping tools are in use on the project site:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which may include steel-toed boots, hearing protection, safety glasses, gloves, and metatarsal guards.
- Jackhammers can be very heavy so always get help with loading and unloading.
- Stretch out the air hose and place it where it will not cause a tripping hazard.
- Check that air hose couplings are secure before each use. Always make sure to use the right bit for the job.
- When the jackhammer is still on the job but not currently in use, lay the jackhammer down, instead of propping it up. This will prevent the tool from falling over which can cause an injury.
- Operators should use their upper body strength and their legs to lift on the jackhammer, not their back. Feet should be planted shoulder-width apart with the body square to the jackhammer.
- If the jackhammer is to be used for periods of greater than 15 minutes, workers should rotate the task to minimize chances of injury.
- In areas where the exact location of underground electrical power lines is unknown, jackhammer operators must wear insulating gloves.
- When jackhammers or chipping tools are used indoors or in an enclosed area, extra ventilation may be needed to reduce visible airborne dust.



OSHA Standard 1926.416(a)(2) *In work areas where the exact location of underground electric powerlines is unknown, employees using jack-hammers, bars, or other hand tools which may contact a line shall be provided with insulated protective gloves.*

Discussion

Image: 0002746 8Minutes/Shutterstock.com

What PPE do you recommend for powered chipping tool operators?

Can you provide additional safety precautions when these powerful tools are used on site?