

TOOLBOX TALK #15

SAFELY USE CUT-OFF SAWS



Cut-off saws make demanding cuts possible, but if not handled properly, they pose serious risks, leaving no room for error.

Powerful reactive forces may arise when rotating saw blades are slowed or stopped from pinching in the material being cut. The material and even the saw itself can become a deadly projectile if used incorrectly.

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) offers multiple best practices for safe use of cut-off saws:

- Follow the manufacturer's recommended blade and guard specifications for the saw being used and materials to be cut.
- Train workers on safe work practices in a language they understand.
- Provide the necessary personal protective equipment for job tasks.
- Inspect the cutting blade for warping and damage before start-up.
- Keep all body parts away from the blade while operating a saw.
- Maintain good balance and footing, using both hands and a firm grip on the handles.
- Ensure no gas or electric utility lines are embedded within cutting zones.