

TOOLBOX TALK #17

SAFELY USE CIRCLE SAWS

Circle saws can cause serious injuries if not operated safely. Used for straight sawing, they're designed to either cut across or along the grain of wood, depending on the blade on the tool, according to OSHA. "The operator adjusts the blade," the agency adds. "Then, holding the stock, the operator pushes the blade across it to perform the cut."



If you're working with a circular saw, OSHA says you can protect yourself by:

- Making sure you keep your hand from out of the cut line
- Checking that you're using the correct blade for the material being cut
- Operating the saw at the speed specified in the owner's manual
- Maintaining the blade and keeping it sharpened
- Replacing cracked blades immediately
- Using the saw's machine guards and anti-kickback fingers to secure the material you're cutting

And remember to wear safety glasses (this is NOT a recommendation ... IT'S A REQUIREMENT) to make sure your eyes are protected from flying particles.