



PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) JOB HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Department: Facilities	Campus: All
Task: Operate a Nail Gun	
Job Title(s) Performing Task: Carpenter, Maintenance Mechanic	

Reviewed by Rick Mincey, Carpenter II, and David Suarez, Carpenter I, July 29, 2015

Task Step/Sub-Tasks	Hazard(s)	Recommended PPE (Bolded)/Controls
1. Always use a nail gun with a “single-shot” or “full sequential” trigger.	Accidental/multiple nail discharges—difficult to avoid with “automatic” or “bump guns”.	Know what type of trigger you are using before you start working.
2. If the nail gun is operated by compressed air, ensure that air pressure does not exceed 120 psi.	Penetration	Air pressure should be between 80 to 120 psi, or in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
3. Examine the nail gun to ensure that the safety tip and spring are present and functional.	Penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear safety glasses, work shoes with a safety toe, ear plugs and a hard hat. • ALWAYS hold and carry the nail gun with your finger OFF the trigger at all times. • Never point the nail gun at yourself or anyone else. Keep co-workers out of your line-of-fire. • Never “play” with the nail gun, e.g., holding safety pin to shoot the gun in the air. • Use your dominant hand to operate the nail gun. • Use a hammer if you cannot reach the work while holding the nail gun with your dominant hand. • Keep your free hand, not holding the gun, as far from the nailing location as possible (12” or more is best).

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<p>3 (continued). Examine the nail gun to ensure that the safety tip and spring are present and functional.</p>	<p>Penetration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect the nail gun from its power source before clearing a jam or performing any maintenance on it. • Use the correct size nail (so as to not penetrate material). • Use extra care when toe nailing. The nail gun can slip before or during firing because it cannot be held flush against the work piece. Use a nail gun with teeth on the safety tip to bite into the work piece to keep it from slipping during the shot. Use the trigger to fire only after the safety tip is positioned. • Use extra care when nailing in tight spaces, from a ladder or with the gun above your head. • Allow space for nail gun recoil (“kickback”) and do not try to stop or fight this recoil. • Use a hammer or reposition for work at face or head height. Recoil is more difficult to control and could be dangerous. • Only use a hammer, palm nailer or positive placement metal connector nailer for fastening metal straps or other connectors—it’s too easy to miss the pre-drilled hole and send a nail flying. • Never horseplay or fool around with nail guns. • Work only as fast as you can safely control the nail gun.
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3 (continued). Examine the nail gun to ensure that the safety tip and spring are present and functional.	Penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never assume that the nail gun is empty. • Shoot the bottom nail first when fastening a stud to a plate. • Aim air exhaust away from eyes and face. • Nail top to bottom when nailing wall sheathing in a vertical position. • Nail forward, not backwards, when nailing in horizontal areas.
4. Check lumber for knots, nails, straps or other things that can cause a nail ricochet or deflection.	Penetration (from splinters)	Wear work gloves .
5. Determine where the studs or joists are when shooting plywood or oriented strand board and position the nail gun to hit them.	Penetration (from nail that passes through sheathing rather than hitting the stud or joist)	Wear safety glasses, work shoes with a safety toe and a hard hat when working around someone using a nail gun.
6. Place safety tip at the point of nailing and depress fully before firing.	Penetration	Wear safety glasses, work shoes with a safety toe and a hard hat .
7. Pull trigger and release.	Penetration	Wear safety glasses, work shoes with a safety toe and a hard hat .
	Noise	Wear ear plugs .
8. Continue nailing in this manner until work is completed.	Penetration	Wear safety glasses, work shoes with a safety toe and a hard hat .
	Noise	Wear ear plugs .
	Impact (from dropped nail gun falling on foot)	Wear work shoes with a safety toe .
	Falls from height	Nail from eaves to the ridge when nailing roof sheathing so that you do not back off the edge of the roof.

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8 (continued). Continue nailing in this manner until work is completed.	Ergonomics (possible injury to hands due to vibration from nail gun actuation)	Wear no-slip, heavy duty work gloves .
	Ergonomics (other strain (musculoskeletal injuries) from using a nail gun for a long period of time in awkward hand/arm postures)	Do stretching and warm-up exercises before starting work.
		Take frequent rest breaks to stretch and “limber up”.
9. If the nail gun is powered by compressed air, use lubricating oil for the nail gun. Disconnect the air hose when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving the nail gun unattended; • Travelling up and down a ladder or stairs; • Passing the nail gun to a co-worker; • Clearing jammed nails; • Performing any other maintenance on the nail gun. 	Penetration (from unintended actuation of nail gun)	Switch off with co-workers.
		Do not handle the nail gun by the air hose.
		Disconnect the air hose when performing these activities.

NOTE: Basic hazard categories include – **impact** (falling/flying objects, struck by), **falls from height**, **penetration** (sharp objects piercing foot/hand, other body parts), **compression** (roll-over or pinching), **cuts**, **burns**, **chemical exposure** (inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, eye contact or injection), **heat**, **extreme cold**, **harmful dust**, **noise**, **light (optical) radiation** (welding, brazing, cutting, furnaces, etc.), **ionizing radiation**, **non-ionizing (RF energy) radiation**, **electrical shock**, **ergonomics** (includes back strain or other strain due to lifting/stretching) and **biologic**.



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CERTIFICATION: I certify that I have personally performed the above Job Hazard Assessment on the date indicated below. *This document is a Certification of the Hazard Assessment required by 29 CFR 1910.132(d)(2).*

Larry L. Leskovjan	<i>Larry L. Leskovjan</i>	July 29, 2015
Printed Name	Signature	Date