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SAMPLE GENERAL SAFE WORK PRACTICE FOR CIRCULAR SAW USE

Potential Health and Safety Hazards

- Chemical hazards; dust (harmful or nuisance dust).
- Physical hazards; noise.
- Machine hazards; moving parts/blades, flying objects (kickback), absence of guards and pinch points.
- Energy hazards; electricity and mechanical (moving parts).
- Work practice hazards; following established safe work practices and procedures, and general housekeeping practices.

Safe Work Practices

- ✓ Read and follow the manufacturer's instruction manual and warning labels.
- ✓ Wear appropriate **personal protective equipment** such as safety footwear, safety glasses, hearing protection and respiratory protection.
- ✓ Ensure that guards are in place and safety devices are working properly.
- ✓ When unplugging equipment pull on the plug, not on the cord.
- ✓ Keep the power cord away from the blade, heat, water and oil.
- ✓ Only use extension cords that are in good condition with proper grounding.
- ✓ Ensure that the work area is clear of debris.
- ✓ Unplug any broken or unsafe equipment, attach a warning tag, take it out-of-service and advise your supervisor.
- ✓ Avoid cutting small pieces of material.
- ✓ Ensure there is adequate lighting in the work area.
- ✓ Keep your hands/fingers away from the cutting area and moving blade.

- × Do not use tape or any other means to bypass the safety interlock.
- × Do not hold or fix the retracting lower guard in the open position.
- × Do not operate any equipment if you feel drowsy or unwell.
- × Do not force the saw while cutting material.
- × Do not place your hand under the shoe or guard of the saw.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at constructionsafetyns.ca or 1.800.971.3888.

- × Do not carry the saw with your finger on the trigger switch.
- × Do not over-reach when cutting material; keep proper footing and balance.
- × Do not wear gloves, loose clothing or jewelry or have long loose hair while operating the saw.
- × Do not use a saw that vibrates or appears unsafe in any way.
- × Do not operate the saw while standing in water.
- × Do not operate a circular saw over your head.
- × Do not attempt to remove the saw from material or pull it back while the blade is in motion.
- × Do not over-tighten the blade locking nut.

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