

# Structural Bolting & Torque Tool Safety

TRADE: STEEL ERECTION & IRONWORK

LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES

USE WHAT FITS TODAY

## LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Use this leader guide before structural bolting & torque tool safety work to review the real setup, the controls that need to be in place, and the conditions that should stop the task. Most tool injuries happen at the point where the tool meets the material: hands are too close, the workpiece moves, the guard is defeated, the accessory is wrong or stored energy is released during a jam or adjustment. Set the work up so control does not depend on reflexes.

## A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

During Structural Bolting & Torque Tool Safety, the tool begins binding, vibrating, feeding poorly, failing to return, or producing a different sound than it did at setup. It still operates. What should the operator do before making another cut, hole, fastener, or pass?

## BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Inspect the exact tool, guard, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord/hose and handle before use.
- Secure/support the workpiece and clear the cutting, kickback, firing and pinch path.
- Set up power/air isolation so jams and adjustments can be handled without exposure.
- Use bolting tools, sockets and reaction arms suited to the fastener and required torque/tension method.
- Keep hands clear of reaction points between the tool, steel and adjacent hardware.

## SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Use bolting tools, sockets and reaction arms suited to the fastener and required torque/tension method.
- Keep hands clear of reaction points between the tool, steel and adjacent hardware.
- Maintain stable positioning and fall protection while applying high torque at elevation.
- Inspect cords/hoses, sockets and tool condition and isolate energy before changing components.

## QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What guard, trigger, handle, blade/bit, accessory, or other safety feature must be in place on the exact tool we are using today?
2. How is the workpiece supported or secured so the tool cannot pull, kick, bind, fire, or move it into the operator?
3. Where are hands and the rest of the body relative to the cutting, firing, kickback, crush, or discharge path?

## COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Using a tool with a defeated guard, wrong accessory or damaged safety feature because it still runs.
- Holding the work by hand where a clamp/support would keep hands out of the hazard path.
- Clearing a jam or changing an accessory before energy is isolated.

## STOP AND RESET IF...

- A guard, handle, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord, hose or safety device is damaged, missing or modified.
- The workpiece cannot be secured or the operator cannot keep hands/body out of the cutting, firing, kickback or pinch path.
- A jam, adjustment or maintenance task would require reaching into the hazard without isolating energy.

## MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Hold the tool (de-energized) and identify the guard, hazard path, workpiece support and isolation point.

## BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

## ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

### Structural Bolting & Torque Tool Safety

|                       |  |                  |  |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|--|
| <b>Project / Job:</b> |  | <b>Date:</b>     |  |
| <b>Talk leader:</b>   |  | <b>Location:</b> |  |

#### CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

| #  | Name | Company / Trade | Signature |
|----|------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1  |      |                 |           |
| 2  |      |                 |           |
| 3  |      |                 |           |
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| 8  |      |                 |           |
| 9  |      |                 |           |
| 10 |      |                 |           |

#### QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

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|--|
|  |
|  |

#### END-OF-TALK CHECK

|                                                                 |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crew can point to the main hazard.     | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical control is in place and usable. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The responsible person/check is clear. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed. |