

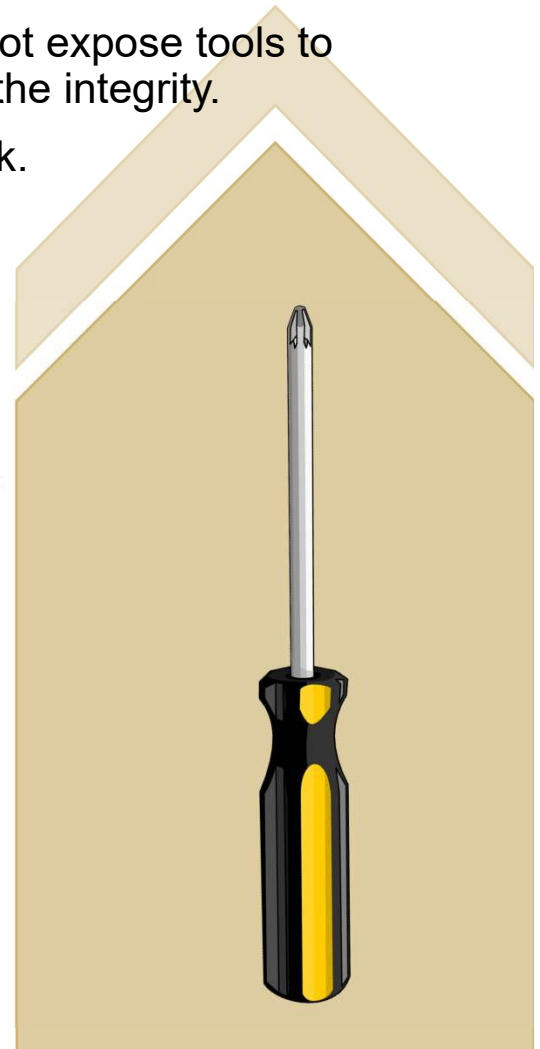
# Hand Tool Safety

## General Safety Information

- Use the right tool for the job. For example, do not use a screwdriver as a chisel.
- Do not attempt to modify or adapt a tool to extend its capabilities.
- Inspect every tool before use and remove damaged or defective tools from service. Do not use tools with defective, broken, or compromised handles, guards, or ancillary parts (e.g., warped, dull, or cracked blades, marred or chipped drill bits, checked hoses, frayed cords, etc.).
- Store tools in a clean and dry location. Do not expose tools to temperatures that could damage or reduce the integrity.
- Always use insulated tools for electrical work.

## Screwdrivers

- Never use a screwdriver as a pry bar, chisel, punch, stirrer or scraper.
- Always use a screwdriver tip that properly fits the slot of the screw.
- Throw away screwdrivers with broken, worn, or bent handles.
- Turn power off and use electrically insulated screwdrivers when working on or around electrical components.
- Use magnetic or screw-holding screwdrivers to start fasteners.



## Wrenches

- Choose a wrench that properly fits the fastener you wish to turn. Use metric wrenches for metric bolts and inch wrenches for inch-sized bolts.
- Avoid using sleeve additions (e.g. a pipe) to improve the leverage of a wrench.
- Do not use open-end or adjustable wrenches for final tightening or loosening frozen fasteners.
- Apply penetrating oil on frozen fasteners before using a striking face box, socket or heavy-duty box wrench.
- Always try to pull on a wrench (instead of pushing) in case the fastener loosens.
- Do not over torque a fastener—use a torque wrench to tighten the fastener to the exact torque required.



## Hammers

- Always use a hammer of the proper weight and size for the task.
- Do not strike the surface at an angle—the hammer face should contact the striking surface squarely, so the two are parallel.
- Do not use a hammer if the handle is damaged or loose.
- Use a hammer face that is 1/2" larger in diameter than the striking tool
- Never weld, heat or regrind a hammer head.
- Remove from service any hammer exhibiting signs of excessive wear, cracks, mushrooming or chips.
- Do not use one hammer to strike another.
- Make sure there is an unobstructed back swing before hammering.



## Pliers

- Do not increase a plier's handle length to gain more leverage, instead choose larger sized pliers
- Always use the proper plier for its intended use. Plier types include lineman, diagonal cutting, needle nose, slip joint, locking tongue and groove.
- Cut hardened wire only with pliers designed for that purpose
- Do not substitute pliers for a wrench when turning nuts and bolts
- Be sure the pliers' jaws can grasp properly when bending rigid wire
- Cut wire at right angles without bending wire back and forth against the cutting edge of a pliers



## Chisel

- Never use a chisel with a mushroomed head.
- Always wear eye protection.
- Hold the chisel between the thumb and forefingers – don't make a fist around the chisel.
- Make sure the chisel is sharp and in good condition

