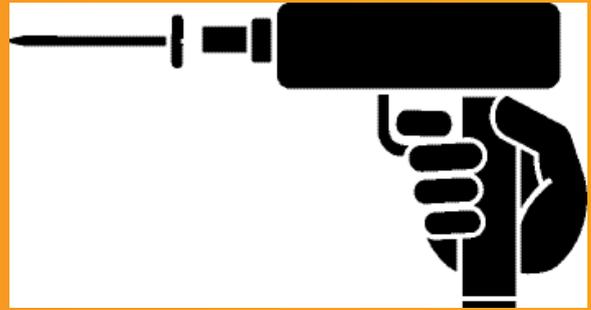


Safety Alert

Nail Gun Injuries



The Problem

Each year, workers within construction and manufacturing are accidentally injured by nail guns. This generally arises when the gun is set to bump fire or 'bounce fire' mode.

Nails are very sharp, and entrance wounds are small, and workers have been known to pull out the nail and continue working, usually only seeking treatment if the injury is deep or they cannot remove the nail.

Maxima does not wish to see anyone injured at the workplace. Any incident involving a nail gun and without proper medical attention can be fatal.

The Risks

While most nail gun injuries occur to the hand, the nail can also become lodged in the limbs, within the soft tissues of the body and face.

Attempting to remove a lodged nail from the body without proper medical attention can lead to further injury and infection.

> Medical exploration of the wound is vital to ensure complete removal of all foreign objects such as nail strip glue, plastic, surface skin or even clothing. These can aid in the production of infection. Infection is also very common if the nail has penetrated a joint.

- > Melted adhesive from the nail can enter the wound, cool, harden, and fuse to surrounding soft tissue. Coatings are hard to identify and not easily removed from the wound.
- > Barbs will hold onto surrounding tissues and vital structures and cause more damage if the nail is removed incorrectly.

The Solution



Workers should seek immediate medical attention after the nail gun injury – even for injuries that appear to be minimal. Studies suggest that secondary complications can be avoided by having workers seek immediate medical care.

Please speak with your placement consultant if you have any queries or concerns working with nail guns in your workplace.