

Toolbox Talk

Cartridge Operated Tools



What?

- Cartridge-operated tools use the power of an explosive charge to secure fixing devices

There are two types of cartridge-operated tools:

- Indirect acting: the driving force is transmitted to the fixing by means of an expanding explosive gas acting on a piston
- Direct acting: the explosive force of a cartridge acts directly on the fixing, driving it along the barrel into the wall or material

Why?

- Cartridge-operated tools are potentially lethal if used recklessly or incompetently
- Several deaths and injuries occur each year from unsafe use of cartridge-operated tools

Main dangers:

- Misfires where the unexploded cartridge unexpectedly misfires
- Fixing device is driven through material
- Accidental operation of tool
- Lost cartridges which end up in the wrong hand



Do



- ✓ Inspect tools prior to use
- ✓ Conduct a test fire
- ✓ Load the tool with the barrel pointing away from you.
- ✓ Keep the tool clean and well oiled.
- ✓ Always wear PPE when using cartridge operated tools
- ✓ Hold the tool at right angles to the job when firing.
- ✓ Lock up tools and cartridges when not in use
- ✓ Count the number of cartridges used and log the quantity

Don't



- ✗ Use cartridge operated tools unless you are trained and over 18, with a certificate of authority.
- ✗ Place your hand over the end of the barrel.
- ✗ Leave the tool loaded when not in use
- ✗ Fire into a hole of a previously attempted fixing
- ✗ Fix into unfamiliar materials without first checking their suitability for cartridge fixing
- ✗ Use if you suffer from colour blindness
- ✗ Walk around with a loaded tool