

- If the fire is small and the correct type of fire extinguisher is available:
  - ✓ Break the seal on the extinguisher and remove the pin.
  - ✓ Stay 8-10 feet away from the fire.
  - ✓ Press the lever and aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
  - ✓ Continue moving the nozzle back and forth at the base of the flames with a steady, sweeping motion.

### Nail gun safety

When used improperly, pneumatic nails guns can cause severe injuries in a number of ways. When the gun shoots nails all of the way through a material, it could puncture a worker behind the nailing surface, OSHA warns. Additionally, the gun can blow fragments off of the nailing surface or fire a nail through electrical wires.

A combination of safe work practices and appropriate personal protective equipment can help mitigate these risks. OSHA recommends:

- Follow all manufacturer's instructions when using a nail gun.
- Ensure the tool meets all applicable OSHA guarding standards.
- Wear safety glasses that provide a side shield.
- Never attempt to modify or circumvent a safety feature.
- Keep your fingers away from the trigger when not driving nails.
- Consider using a sequential gun that requires both the trigger and the nose of the gun to be depressed before firing.
- Disconnect the gun before performing maintenance, moving to another work area or clearing jams.
- Always position yourself and your free hand out of the line of fire, and watch out for co-workers behind the nailing surface. Never point a nail gun at someone. S+H

## FACEValue

### NIOSH's Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Reports

#07CA004

Date of incident: May 25, 2007

### BOAT REPAIRMAN KILLED WHEN BATTERY EXPLODES

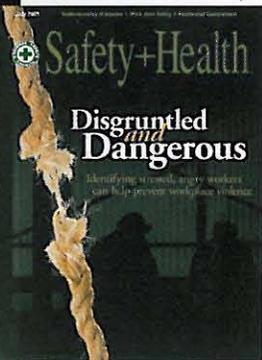
**A** 68-year-old boat repairman died from burns sustained in a fire caused by an exploding battery. The morning of the incident, the victim was alone in the service shop working on a customer's boat. He was attempting to connect the battery to a charger at the time of the explosion. The explosion caused both the boat and the victim to catch fire. He was not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment or clothing. Passers-by saw the victim attempting to put out the fire and called 911. Paramedics arrived and transported the victim to a local hospital, where he later died from burns. The victim had worked for the small service, maintenance and sales shop for trailed boats for more than two years at the time of the incident. Although he had previous experience, the company had no documented safety or training programs available for its employees.



### TO PREVENT FUTURE OCCURRENCES:

- ✓ **Ensure employees follow documented battery-charging guidelines.** Because charging batteries is a common task, workers may discount potential hazards. Hydrogen gas is formed when the battery charges, which can lead to fire or explosions. Train employees on proper and safe charging techniques.
- ✓ **Ensure employees' clothing and safety apparel is appropriate for the work being done.** Most manmade products such as nylon, acrylic or polyester will melt when ignited and produce a hot, sticky substance that can fuse to the skin and cause severe burns. In this case, the victim was wearing polyester clothing – inappropriate for the work being performed. The victim also should have been wearing PPE, including a face mask, goggles, an apron and gloves. Although this may not have prevented the incident from occurring, it may have significantly diminished the severity of the victim's injuries.
- ✓ **Establish and maintain an illness and injury prevention program.** In this case, the employer had no safety program in place for employees. Had a safety program been in place, the hazard might have been identified and eliminated before this incident occurred.
- ✓ **Establish and maintain training and testing programs that verify and document an employee's achievement of skills.** In this case, the employer had no documented training or testing program in place for employees.

**Plus** To access the full report, go to [www.nsc.org/plus](http://www.nsc.org/plus)



# Safety+Health



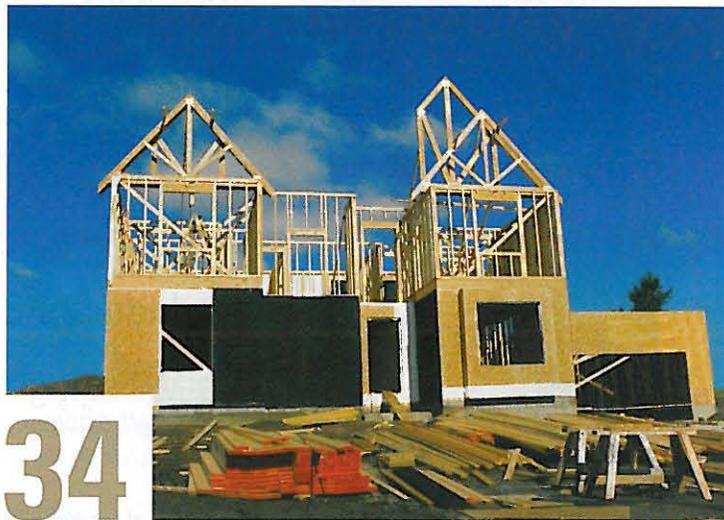
July 2009  
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Advisory committee wants OSHA to rescind interim standard

By Marvin V. Greene



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Industry heightens efforts to prevent incidents

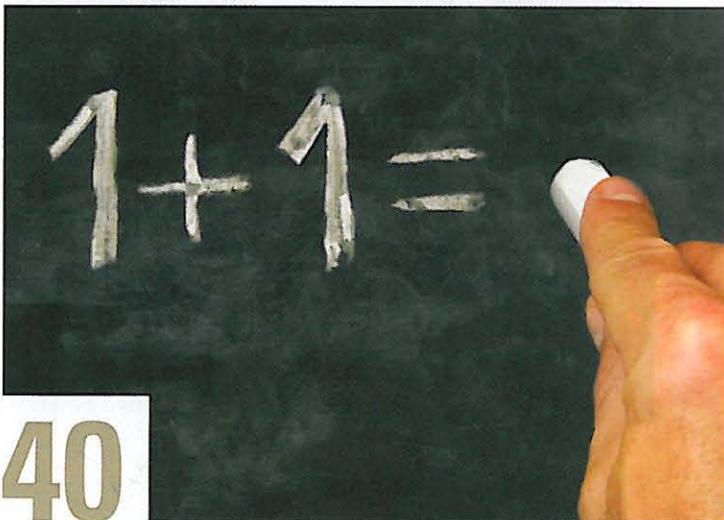
By Deidre Bello



### 40 **Not adding up?**

Safety advocates claim underreporting of injuries puts workers at risk

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Identifying stressed, angry workers can help prevent workplace violence

By Laretta Claussen

## Safety+Health **+Plus**

These extras and more available this month on [www.nsc.org/plus](http://www.nsc.org/plus):

- Read an August 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics report on undercounting of injuries.
- Download the Roadway Safety Awareness Program.