



# IAMU

# TOOLBOX TALK

## Preventing Cut-Off Saw Kickback

Saw blades build up huge amounts of kinetic energy during cutting; and when they stop suddenly, the energy must go somewhere, leaving the operator with a potentially fatal injury from a saw blade or a saw that is wrenched from its fittings and is left running freely along the ground.

Kickback is a sudden reaction to a pinched, jammed, or bound up saw blade where the saw thrusts up and backward.

Another violent pressure that leaves the operator with uncontrolled equipment is the pull-in force, which may drag the operator toward the blade.

**There are two main ways to reduce saw kickback: prevent the blade from stopping suddenly and reduce your chances of being struck if the saw does stop.**

- ◆ Make sure you are trained in proper cutting techniques, safety, and how to hold the saw.
- ◆ Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment while cutting.
- ◆ Keep your blade sharp and clean. Dull or dirty blades tend to bind up in cuts.
- ◆ Do not use a saw that is too heavy for you to control.
- ◆ Never remove the guard as it is designed to capture and deflect the pieces of a shattered blade. Inspect the guard and make sure that there is no evidence of failure.
- ◆ Make a series of straight, shallow cuts. Set the blade at no greater than 1/8" to 1/4" more than the thickness of the material to avoid contacting foreign items while cutting.
- ◆ Operate the saw at the manufacturer's recommended speed.
- ◆ Make sure your blade is the right size for the saw.
- ◆ Take your finger off the trigger or power switch if the blade binds up, the saw stalls, or the power is interrupted.



**Stay out of the line of fire!**  
Standing directly behind the saw increases your chances of being struck by the blade if the saw kicks back. Maintain your balance and footing at all times.