Using a Power Nailer/Nail Gun

- Check the tool manual for the nailer as needed.
- Do not use a broken or malfunctioning nail gun.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment: safety shoes, hard hat, high-impact eye protection, and earplugs or earmuffs.
- Never bypass or disable nail gun safety features.
- Make sure that other people are not in the line of fire from a nail gun that you will use.
- Keep your fingers off the trigger when holding or carrying a nail gun.
- Never lower a nail gun from above or drag it by the air hose.
- Check lumber surfaces before nailing. Look for knots, nails, straps, hangers, etc., that could cause recoil or ricochet.
- Use a hammer or positive placement nailer when nailing metal joinery or irregular lumber.
- For placement work, keep hands at least 12 inches away from the nailing point at all times.

CAUTION: Consider using clamps to brace, instead of your hands.

- Always shoot nail guns away from your body and away from other people.
- Always disconnect the compressed air when:
  - Leaving a nailer unattended
  - Traveling up and down a ladder or stairs
  - Passing the nail gun to another person
  - Clearing jammed nails
  - Performing any other maintenance on the nail gun

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Recognize the dangers of awkward position work:

- Use a hammer if you cannot reach the work while holding the nailer with your dominant hand (your right hand if you are right-handed, your left hand if you are left-handed).

  CAUTION: Never use a nail gun with your non-dominant hand.

- Use a hammer, or reposition, for work at face height or head height.

  CAUTION: Recoil is more difficult to control in these situations and could be dangerous.

- Use a hammer, or a full sequential trigger nailer, when working in a tight space.

  CAUTION: Recoil is more difficult to control in these situations and double-fires could occur with contact triggers.

- Take extra care with toe-nailing.

  CAUTION: Nail guns can slip before or during firing because the gun cannot be held flush against the work piece. Use a nail gun with teeth on the safety contact to bite into the work piece to keep the gun from slipping during the shot. Use the trigger to fire only after the safety contact piece is positioned.

- Position ladders so you don't have to reach too far.

  CAUTION: Your belt buckle should stay between the side rails of the ladder when you are reaching to the side.

- If you must work from a ladder, use full sequential trigger nailers.

  CAUTION: This can prevent injury from the nailer bumping a leg while you climb up or down a ladder.

Source: *Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Labor