

## Jackhammer Safe Work Practices

### Pneumatic / Electrical Jackhammers

When using a jackhammer:

- Wear proper PPE: eye protection, steel-toed boots, hearing protection; and safety gloves.
- Rotate workers, whenever possible, when jackhammering for extended periods of time.
- Position the jackhammer as near as possible to the work location. Place the compressor as far as possible from the work area to reduce the level of noise.
- Inspect the jackhammer and associated equipment regularly for defect or damage. Check if all components are complete, securely in place (or tightened) and in good condition. Make sure to do this, too, before every shift or start of operations.
  - Check air hoses for breaks, cracks, and worn or damaged couplings.
  - Ensure that the rating of the hose is sufficient for the job intended.
  - Inspect the electrical cord for frays, wear and other signs of damage.
- Secure hose ends to prevent whipping if an accidental cut or break occurs
- Workers must sling the electrical cord on their shoulder to prevent its accidental swerving which can cause electrocution.
- Use the proper weight of the jackhammer for the job. Use a lighter jackhammer for the job as much as possible.
- Use the proper point for the material to be broken. Remember to use rock point for rock, spade point for asphalt, and chisel point for concrete. Never use a broken or cracked point.
- Lift the jackhammer properly by using the legs. This helps you avoid back strain or injury.
- Position the bit where you wish to start the cut, then widen your stance to an athletic position prior to pulling the trigger.
- Operate the tool at a slight angle with it leaning back towards you. This way, you prevent the point from getting stuck in the material and the tool from getting out of control.
- Check for dust when operating jackhammer – If necessary, use water suppression and/or respiratory equipment to limit exposure levels.
- Do not jackhammer down beyond the depth of the cutting bit.
- Release air trigger whenever lifting up on the jackhammer. If jackhammer trigger is operated when jackhammer is not being held down with pressure, it could jump around uncontrolled and injure the worker.
- When moving the jackhammer from place to place during operation, place your hand between the handle and the operating lever.
- Shut off the air supply and relieve pressure from the supply hose before changing tool points. Do the same when leaving the jackhammer unattended.
- Immediately remove defective or malfunctioning jackhammers and other tools until they are properly repaired.
- Barricade the work area as much as possible to keep spectators and untrained personnel from getting exposed to the hazards of jackhammer operations.
- In the event that the jackhammer bit “gets stuck”:
  - Attempt to free the bit by moving the jackhammer back and forth from side to side.
  - If bit is still stuck, put a second bit into the jackhammer and work at stuck bit from an angle.

