



POWDER ACTUATED TOOL  
MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE

## 5 – MINUTE SAFETY TALK

### POWDER ACTUATED TOOL USE

Experience has established that the most important factor in achieving safe and effective use of powder actuated fastening systems is operator training. Regulations of most states as well as OSHA require that the operators of powder actuated be trained and certified prior to operating powder actuated tools.

*HAS EVERYONE BEEN TRAINED AND CERTIFIED FOR THE TOOL THEY ARE USING?*

#### Tips to Use Powder Actuated Systems Safely:

- Use common sense and good judgment
- Follow the Manufacturer's instructions
- Use the tool for its intended purpose only
- Wear eye protection
- Wear hearing protection
- Never place your hand over the front end of a tool
- Never load the tool until you are ready to make a fastening
- Always keep the tool pointed in a safe direction
- Never carry around a loaded tool. Remove the powder load when carrying around the tool.

#### Tips on Tool Care:

- Always check the tool prior to each day's use to be certain it is in proper working order
- Tools that do not operate properly must be removed from use until they are repaired
  - Tools that do not work properly are often the ones that cause injuries
- Tools should be used, cleaned, and maintained in accordance with the tool manufacturer's instructions.
- Tools must be unloaded when not in use
- Never attempt to work on a tool until it is unloaded

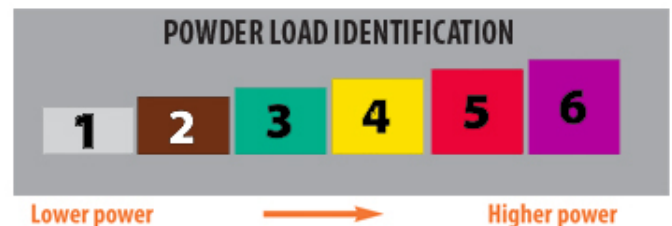
#### Safely Using a Powder Actuated Tool:

- Always check the chamber for foreign matter before loading
- Always load the fastener first then advance or load the powder load.
- Always operate the tool at right angles to the work surface. Never try to toe nail

- Always follow the manufacturer's rules for edge distance, fastener spacing & material thickness
- Never attempt to fasten into a spalled or cracked area in the concrete or masonry. Doing so may cause the fastener to fish hook or ricochet.
- Do not fasten into very hard or brittle material such as cast iron, glass block, clay tile, ceramic tile and most natural rock.
- Never fasten into soft materials unless they are back by a material that will prevent the fastener from passing completely through.

#### Powder Loads / Boosters:

- Powder loads are available in various sizes and color/power levels. See the chart below.



- Refer to the tool manufacturer documentation for the type and range of powder loads used in the tool
- Always check the color and caliber of the powder load before inserting it into the chamber
- Never attempt to force a powder load into a tool or try to pry a load out of a chamber