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The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are pleased to announce the release of “Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors.” Nail guns are widely used on many construction jobs—especially in residential construction. While nail guns may boost productivity, they also cause tens of thousands of painful injuries each year. This new publication is intended to provide a resource for residential home builders and construction contractors, subcontractors, supervisors and workers to prevent these kinds of injuries.

The guidance was developed in response to a unanimous recommendation by employer, labor and public members of OSHA’s Advisory Committee for Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH), asking OSHA to develop awareness and materials about nail gun risks. OSHA and NIOSH worked together to make sure the guidance reflects the most current information available. The publication highlights what is known about nail gun injuries, describes the common causes of nail gun injuries and provides six practical steps that contractors can take to prevent these injuries. The guidance includes actual workplace cases along with a short section on other types of nail gun hazards and sources of additional information.

“Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors” is available on the OSHA and NIOSH websites, and hard copies are also available by calling OSHA’s publications office at 1-800-321-OSHA or www.osha.gov; or NIOSH at 1-800-CDC-INFO or <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pubs/default.html> . Please pass along information about this new guidance to those who can use this information. Our hope is that by working together with tool gun manufacturers, safety and health professionals, and other organizations, we can improve nail gun safety on the job site.

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