

HAZARD



ALERT

HAZARD SUMMARY:

OH&S officers have encountered vinyl siding contractors using power tools in an unsafe manner. Skill saws bolted upside down on plywood and saw horse tables are being used to cut vinyl. “Hot wiring” the saw to a switch is also a hazardous practice. . This poses a high degree of risk for employees from the unguarded blade and unstable cutting surface. Use of a saw in this manner is prohibited in the regulations.

HAZARD LOCATION:

Constructors doing vinyl siding work.

LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The OH&S regulations section 29.5 (e) states that tools shall be used only for the specific purposes for which they were designed.

Section 30.9 (1) states that the employer shall provide effective safeguards to prevent contact with cutting edges.

Section 30.9 (4) states that machines designed with guards that interlock with machinery must not be altered to prevent the operation of the guard.



RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS:

- ◆ Use appropriate tools for the job. There are a number of devices on the market designed for the purpose of cutting vinyl that have the appropriate safe guards in place.
- ◆ Educate employees on safe cutting practices.

For further information, please contact the Occupational Health & Safety Division at (902) 368-5697 or visit our website at www.wcb.pe.ca

