



Blades for Cut-Off type Industrial Saws (Fire Service)

Two reports of circular saw blades coming free from cut-off type industrial saws have come to Oregon OSHA's attention. These two incidents happened in the Portland area and underscore the need for caution by users of such equipment. This type of portable saw is typically used by local fire departments and emergency service providers. In each of these cases, saw blades that were not recommended by the manufacturer broke loose from the saw and flew off. This poses obvious hazards to the user and any workers or others near the saw. It is important that the equipment you use is appropriate and authorized for that use by the manufacturer.

Stihl, Inc. cautions users not to use carbide tipped, wood cutting or circular saw blades on their saws as they can cause severe personal injury from reactive forces, blade contact or thrown tips. Oregon OSHA agrees. At this time, the only blades recommended by Stihl for use on their saws are diamond blades and abrasive blades. Other types of blades may be used on other types of saws when approved by the manufacturer.

When using portable powered circular cut-off saws, the following standard must be complied with:



§1910.212 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MACHINES

(a)(3)(ii) The point of operation of machines whose operation exposes an employee to an injury shall be guarded. The guarding device shall be in conformity with any appropriate standards thereof, or, in the absence of applicable specific standards, shall be so designed and constructed as to prevent the operator from having any part of his body in the danger zone during the operating cycle.

Note: 1910.243(a)(1)(I) does not apply since cut-off saws do not have base plates or shoes.

Adequate guarding is normally provided by keeping the adjustable blade guard positioned between the operator and the point of operation. Eye protection must always be worn by the operator and everyone within close proximity.

Oregon
OSHA

Oregon OSHA
www.orosha.org
(800) 922-2689

DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER
& BUSINESS
SERVICES

Hazard alerts provide information on unusual safety or health hazards or unusual or hazardous materials or practices. For more information contact the Oregon OSHA Standard and Technical Resources Section at (503) 378-3272, toll free at (800) 922-2689 or visit our Web site at www.orosha.org.