

## **SAFE WORK PRACTICES DEFECTIVE TOOLS**

*\*This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Defective equipment and tools can cause serious and painful injuries if a tool is defective in some way. **DON'T USE IT!**

Be aware of problems like:

- chisels and wedges with mushroomed heads;
- split or cracked handles;
- chipped or broken drill bits;
- wrenches with worn out jaws; or
- tools which are not complete, such as files without handles.

To ensure safe use of tools and equipment:

- never use a defective tool;
- double check all tools prior to use; and
- ensure defective tools are repaired.

Air, gasoline or electric powered tools and equipment require skill and complete attention on the part of the user even when they are in good condition. Don't use powered tools when they are defective in any way.

Watch for problems like:

- broken, missing or inoperative guards;
- insufficient or improper grounding due to damage on double insulated tools,
- no ground wire (on plug) or cords of standard tools;
- the on/off switch is not in good working order;
- tool blade is cracked; or
- the wrong grinder wheel is being used.

***Defective tools and equipment must be tagged "Out of Service" until repairs can be made or the item replaced. When tagging a defective item, include a detailed explanation of the problem if possible.***