

Nail Guns: Safe Connections, Clear Hands

COMPANY

PROJECT

DATE

PRESENTED BY

Framing and roofing put pneumatic nailers close to hands, coworkers, and busy walking paths. A loose air connection, a defeated safety device, or scrap underfoot can turn a routine fastening task into an injury. Before starting, make sure the tool, hose, and work area are ready.

Check the Tool and Air Supply

- OSHA requires a positive connection that keeps a pneumatic tool from accidentally separating from its hose. Check that the connection is secure before moving into position to nail.
- Automatic-feed nailers operating above 100 psi at the tool must have a muzzle safety device that prevents firing unless the nose touches the work. Never tie back or defeat that device.
- Do not exceed the manufacturer's safe operating pressure for hoses, valves, filters, or fittings. Check the setup rather than raising pressure to force a tool to work.
- Hoses with an inside diameter greater than 1/2 inch require a device at the supply or branch line that reduces pressure if the hose fails. Report missing protection, damaged hoses, or loose connections before using the setup.

Plan Each Shot

- Keep your supporting hand away from the nose and the likely path of the nail. Position the piece so you do not need to hold it beside the fastening point.
- Check where the nail could travel, including behind thin material or through an edge. Move your hand or ask a coworker to move before fastening.
- Keep the tool pointed away from people and keep your finger off the trigger while repositioning. Do not let the pace of framing or roofing rush your setup.
- If the nose safety device sticks or the tool behaves unexpectedly, stop and report it. Disconnect the air supply before clearing a jam or making an adjustment, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Manage Hoses and Scrap

- Never use an air hose to raise or lower a nailer. Arrange another safe way to move tools between work levels.
- Route hoses so they do not snag on framing, pull against the tool, or cross walking paths unnecessarily. Pause and reposition the hose when it starts affecting your footing.
- OSHA requires that scrap lumber with nails sticking out, and all other debris, be kept cleared from work areas, walkways, and stairs. Put waste in the containers provided instead of leaving it where the next worker will step.
- Pick up dropped nails, nail strips, and offcuts as you go. Clean as the work moves along so hose loops and sharp scrap don't collect around your feet.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You are fastening roof sheathing. The hose catches on scrap, and your coworker reaches beside the nailer's nose to steady the panel. What would you stop, reposition, and check before continuing?

Questions for the crew

1. What keeps the nailer from separating from its hose?
2. Where should your supporting hand be before firing?
3. What tool or hose problems would make you stop and report?

| Secure the air connection, respect the safety device, and clear hands and footing before every shot.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.302, Power-operated hand tools; 29 CFR 1926.25, Housekeeping

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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