

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program

Woodworking Band Saw Safety

Purpose: Provide safety requirements for operating wood working band saws.

PPE: Safety glasses, if material can chip easily then a full face shield must also be worn in addition to the safety glasses. No jewelry such as watches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, chains, etc. are to be worn.

If you have long hair, tie it or restrain it with a hairnet. If hair is simply tucked inside a hardhat, it can come loose and get caught in moving parts. Even a long beard can be a hazard in a machine work environment.

Operation: Before operating check the following points:

- Locate off switch.
- Check blade for tightness by first shutting off power. Done by either locking the power shut off or for saws with a cord and plug, pull the plug. Then test to see if any kinetic energy is still present before checking blade or servicing the saw.
- Clear working table of material etc.
- All portions of the blade must be enclosed or guarded except the portion between the bottom of the guide rolls and the table.
- The down travel guard from the upper wheel to the guide rolls shall be adjusted so the blade will travel within the angle or channel.
- All wheels and belts must be enclosed.

While Operating:

- Must not run at speeds in excess of manufacturer's recommended speed.
- Keep blade guard adjusted as close as possible to the table without interfering with the movement of the stock being cut.