

# CONSTRUCTION VIEWS

Education | Recognition | Networking

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MCA's Annual Awards of Excellence Gala celebrates outstanding construction projects and the teams that make it all happen. With an anticipated crowd of more than 100 construction professionals, it is a networking and celebratory event you don't want to miss.

Seating is limited and reservations are required if you plan to attend the Gala on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Minneapolis Golf Club. You may reserve a table for 8 persons for \$640 or a half-table for 4 persons for \$320 (members or non-members). Individual reservations are \$80 for MCA members or \$90 for non-members. **Registration deadline is January 17, 2014.** All attendees must register in advance; onsite registration will not be available for this event.

[Online Registration](#)

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# Calendar of Events

Wednesday,  
January 29, 2014  
Awards of Excellence  
Dinner & Gala

Wednesday,  
March 12, 2014  
Inspec's 8th Annual Half-  
Day Seminar – Building  
Envelope Transitions: Key  
to Success or Failure

Visit [www.mnconstruction.org](http://www.mnconstruction.org)  
for more information and to  
register today!

MCA is a non-profit association dedicated to educating and promoting the construction industry. Statements of fact and opinion in this publication are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect or imply the opinion of the members, directors or staff of MCA.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Gregg Johnson*

**A**s we end one calendar year and begin a new year, we reflect on our past as we plan for the future. I would like to thank Nick Mannel for his strong leadership as the 2013 MCA President. I also send a very special thanks to two very dedicated members that will complete their terms on the MCA Board in December - Jim Hentges and Alana Sunness Griffith. The Leadership, Commitment and Support provided by these industry trailblazers helped pave the way for the future of MCA. I feel honored and humbled that I have been selected to continue the journey and serve as the 2014 MCA President.

MCA members look forward in 2014 to an industry future that is full of opportunities. A new economy has sprouted up, new technologies and material are being developed and used, and innovative methods to communicate and collaborate will lead our industry into the future. MCA is your resource to keep in tune with these new trends, learn about projects that are leading the way, network with fellow members and champion the investment in the future leaders of our industry.

When I network with industry professionals I share my involvement with MCA. I inform them that all industry professionals have a voice within our association. I am excited about the benefit membership provides, the direction we are heading and how together we can make a difference in the industry today and for the future.

During my presentations to our Educational Partners I leave them with this one assignment:

**“Get Involved, Drive for the Future  
and Share the Message”**

I encourage you to get involved, be a driver for the future and share the MCA Vision and Mission with your project partners, co-workers, and industry contacts:

**MCA Vision:**

The Collaborative place for the building industry

**MCA Mission:**

The Minnesota Construction Association fosters education, recognition and networking for all industry professionals who collaborate to plan, create and sustain best construction practices.

I look forward to partnering with you in your 2014 Journey.

*Networking. Business Development. Education.*

**PLEASE HELP MCA WELCOME  
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:**

**Graham Construction Services, Inc.  
Company Membership**

Graham is an employee-owned contractor founded on commitment, integrity and reliability. With over 80 years of experience and annual revenues exceeding \$2.1 billion, Graham is one of the industry's leading contractors. We cover the entire construction life cycle and every contracting mode, including: general contracting, CM/GC, design-build, Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) and integrated project delivery.

[www.grahamus.com](http://www.grahamus.com)

**Please help MCA welcome our newest student member:  
Minnesota State University, Moorhead**  
Ryan Wayne

**Congratulations to our 2013 Quiz Bowl Champions**

MCA Members and Students gathered on Friday, October 4, 2013 for the second annual Intercollegiate Quiz Bowl (hosted this year by the University of Minnesota). The Quiz Bowl was held in conjunction with the Construction and Facility Management Career Fair.

Both University of Minnesota teams smoked the competition this year, besting teams from Moorhead, Mankato and Stout (who won in 2012) only to find themselves locked in a championship round against each other that ended in a tie, requiring a final tiebreaker question.

Please congratulate the winning team for bringing home the JE Dunn Construction Trophy: Rachel Dana, Vanessa Lunardelli, Ryan Kriesel and Marque Garcynzinski.

And to the many students that attended our first ever intercollegiate career fair, THANK YOU! This event was a phenomenal success - far exceeding our expectations.



Congratulations to the 2013 winning University of Minnesota team!



Making Connections at the 2013 Construction and Facility Management Career Fair

**MCA 2014  
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# Duluth International Airport Passenger Terminal Selected as 2014 Choice Award Recipient

The Minnesota Construction Association (MCA) has the annual honor of recognizing a project that was completed as a result of resourceful blending of construction techniques and professionals. The project must also be unique, creative and visionary in design as well as completed in a safe manner.

MCA is pleased to announce that the 2014 recipient of the MCA Choice Award is the Duluth International Airport's New Passenger Terminal constructed by Kraus-Anderson Construction Company. The project was constructed for the Duluth Airport Authority directly south of the original airport terminal at a total cost of \$78 million.

Kraus-Anderson will receive the award at the 2014 MCA Awards of Excellence Gala on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Minneapolis Golf Club. A separate MCA Choice Award educational program will be held in February in conjunction with the regularly scheduled monthly program.

The award-winning project replaces an outdated facility that was originally built in 1973. The new terminal, designed by Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. based in Duluth, MN, meets Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliance requirements, Department of Homeland Security post-9/11 requirements, Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility guidelines, and has new accommodations for processing international flights by Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The 110,000-square-foot airline passenger terminal is LEED registered with the certification goal of LEED Silver. The project has sustainable green energy features such as a geothermal heating system and numerous windows for natural lighting, making the new building as eco-friendly as possible.

Two main levels are connected by escalators, stairs and elevators. The terminal includes a new restaurant, lounge, gift shop, two baggage-claim carousels, vending and restrooms. A comfortable

400-seat passenger concourse area is complete with Wi-Fi, TVs and in-floor outlets for electronics. In addition, the project includes new long and short-term parking lots, multiple pick-up and drop-off vehicle traffic lanes, and a separate commercial-vehicle lane.

From the project's inception, team members collaborated to create the most efficient and sustainable heating and cooling system possible without compromising occupant comfort during harsh winter months. The resulting plan includes a triple-glazed "acoustic curtain wall" and a radiant "airfloor" incorporating underfloor cavities for distribution of fresh air in larger public spaces. As a result of a geothermal well that meets 75% of heating requirements and 100% of cooling loads, operators expect to achieve a 3.19-ton reduction in CO2 emissions over the system's projected 40-year life.

Construction began in the fall of 2011 and was completed successfully and safely in early 2013 with original planning of the project that was nearly a decade in the making. The airport was one of the first in Minnesota to receive an FAA Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) Grant. The \$3.8 million grant allowed the airport to design and construct the geothermal heating and cooling system, which reduces emissions to the environment and enables the airport to reduce operating costs for airlines.

The project was also named one of the Midwest's Best Projects and won the "Airport/Transit" category by Engineering News Record which is an annual competition recognizing outstanding design and construction in a variety of



categories. Panelists selected the award-winning projects on the basis of design and construction quality, innovation, safety and the ability of their project teams to overcome unique challenges.

Please visit the Awards of Excellence Gala website at [www.mnconstruction.org/events/awards/](http://www.mnconstruction.org/events/awards/) for event details and registration and sponsorship information.

# Final IRS Repair Regulations Released



Grant M. Tentis, CPA, MBT, CVA

Business owners have lots of questions when it comes to deciding whether to expense costs or capitalize fixed assets, such as:

- Can I expense a laptop computer I purchased for \$699 in the current year?
- What qualifies as standby emergency spare parts, and can I capitalize them for tax purposes?
- Can I use the same accounting capitalization policy for book and tax purposes?
- I replaced the roof on my factory – but haven't yet finished depreciating the original roof – how should I handle the disposition of the old roof?

In the past, tax preparers and business owners criticized the IRS capitalization guidelines for being ambiguous, complex and subjective. There were few quantitative brightline rules. Instead, the appropriate tax treatment was governed by the qualitative “betterment” tests and Tax Court cases. The IRS released temporary guidelines in 2011 to clarify how to apply Internal Revenue Code Sections 162 and 263.

On September 13, 2013, the final regulations were debuted, revealing some significant changes from the 2011 temporary version. Here is an overview of the major changes that will affect your privately held firm.

## Materials and Supplies

The new regulations generally allow you to deduct materials and supplies that cost \$200 or less to acquire or produce under Section 162.

## Repairs versus Improvements

When it comes to repairs, the final regulations retain most of the guidance issued under the 2011 temporary regulations. Under Section 162, incidental repairs are expensed.

Under Section 263, however, you must generally capitalize improvements that:

1. Add to the value, or substantially prolong the useful life, of your property or
2. Adapt the property to a new or different use.

Betterment test. The final regulations use a modified “betterment” test to determine

whether to capitalize costs as improvements. An improvement makes the property better if it materially adds to the asset, restores a major condition or defect, or increases its productivity, efficiency, strength, quality or output.

An improvement also must be capitalized if it restores the asset by replacing a major component or substantial structural part of the asset, including buildings. The final regulations no longer require you to consider how the expenditure is treated on your financial statements when applying the betterment test.

Routine maintenance safe harbor. The final regulations also allow routine maintenance on fixed assets – including routine building maintenance – to be deducted for tax purposes. Routine maintenance costs are those recurring activities you expect to perform to keep the property in its ordinarily efficient operating condition. Examples include inspection, cleaning, testing and replacing parts.

To qualify as “routine” you must expect, at the time the property was placed in service, to perform the activity more than once during its economic useful life. For building improvements to qualify under the routine maintenance safe harbor, you must expect to perform the activity more than once in 10 years.

## De Minimis Safe Harbor for Acquisitions

For simplicity's sake, many business owners prefer to use the same capitalization methods for book and tax purposes. The final regulations permit certain taxpayers to deduct tangible property they acquire or produce, if the total cost per item (or invoice) is \$5,000 or less. To qualify for this safe harbor, you must:

- Prepare an “applicable financial statement”.
- Possess a written accounting procedure at the beginning of the tax year for expensing property under a specified dollar amount.
- Expense the cost on your applicable financial statement, not just your tax return.

The de minimis safe harbor also applies to property with an economic useful life of 12 months or less as long as the item does not cost more than \$5,000 per item (or per invoice).

Many private businesses do not prepare “applicable financial statements”. You might prepare financial statements in-house or have them compiled by a CPA. Taxpayers without applicable financial statements are subject to a \$500 capitalization threshold. Even to qualify for the lesser amount, you

must have accounting procedures in place at the beginning of the tax year for expensing property below the threshold.

If you elect to use this safe harbor on your tax return, you must use the de minimis safe harbor for all amounts paid in the taxable year for tangible property – including materials and supplies – that meet the requirements. You can only revoke an election to use the de minimis safe harbor by filing an application for change in accounting method.

If you do not currently have a written policy for expensing property under a specified dollar amount, consider drafting one before year end, if you plan to elect the de minimis safe harbor in 2014.

## Small Business Safe Harbor

The final regulations offer a break to small businesses with gross receipts of \$10 million (or less) when it comes to building improvements. For buildings that initially cost \$1 million or less, qualifying small taxpayers may elect to deduct the lesser of \$10,000 or 2 percent of the adjusted basis of the property for repairs, maintenance, improvements and similar activities each year.

You may elect annually to use the safe harbor for buildings on a building-by-building basis by including a statement on your federal tax return. Amounts to which you correctly apply this safe harbor are not treated as capitalizable building improvements under Section 263; instead, they are expensed under Section 162.

## Effective Date

The final regulations generally apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. However, certain provisions of the final regulations only apply to amounts paid or incurred in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.

You may apply the new regulations to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. Compliance may require you to change your current capitalization procedures and file an IRS form.

If your business owns or leases fixed assets, consult with your tax advisor to determine how these rules affect your accounting practices – and whether they will result in tax savings or unexpected costs.

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# Member to Member



**RACHEL CONTRACTING** has announced the promotion of **KEVIN KLIMMEK** to the position of vice president/North

Dakota group manager. Klimmek, previously one of Rachel's senior project manager/estimators, says the promotion, a new position within the company, is in response to a continually-increasing level of activity in the thriving northwest North Dakota economic landscape.

"We have had a solid presence in North Dakota for some time now, but the growth in that area—driven by Bakken Oil Shale production and the infrastructure needed to support it—is so impressive that we felt a dedicated management-level person was needed," he says. "One of the hallmarks of Rachel's business has always been its ability to provide outstanding service and the best possible product to our clients—this will allow us to do so even better."

Klimmek's past experience includes twenty years of construction related experience in the heavy civil industry around the central and western United States. Major areas of work include Arizona, Minnesota and North Dakota. He currently resides in Jordan, MN with his wife, Beth.

Rachel's projects in the oil and gas-rich northwest North Dakota include earthwork, utilities, environmental, demolition, industrial services, ground stabilization, aggregate and specialty contracting for the oil and gas industry. Recently Rachel completed mass grading on the Garden Creek Gas Plant and four other Compressor Stations for ONEOK. Rachel has also recently completed several projects for Tesoro, Dakota Gasification Company, Freedom Mine, Basin Electric and

Enbridge. Currently, Rachel is conducting mass grading and tank foundation construction for one of the state's largest tank farms located in Johnson's Corner, ND as well as grading and utility installation for the Van Hook Oil Terminal located in New Town, ND. Other projects currently under construction include grading and aggregate placement for a McKenzie Electric substation located near Watford City, ND; grading for a new B-52 Maintenance Hangar at Minot Air Force Base; highway grade raise projects; and several commercial grading projects. ■

**AMERICAN ENGINEERING TESTING, INC.** recently formalized a consultancy relationship with Dr. Lawrence Sutter and the Institute of Materials Processing (IMP) at Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech). As a Senior Consultant he will evaluate and analyze samples for AET's national Cement and Concrete Materials Technology Group.

"This is a great technical benefit for our clients," says David Rettner, Senior Vice President of AET's Geotechnical and Construction Services division. "Dr. Sutter and his labs are superior to most commercial environments. This exclusive partnership between AET and Dr. Sutter allows AET to utilize his decades of study on construction materials to really sharpen our evaluations and reports." Dr. Sutter is a professor and researcher in the Materials Science & Engineering Department at Michigan Tech where he is intimately involved in evaluating the sustainability of construction materials and is a strong proponent of technologies that reuse or repurpose materials. According to Rettner such materials as fly ash, blast furnace slag, and municipal solid waste incinerator ash are emerging staples of road stabilization, one of AET's specialties.

Dr. Sutter has over thirty years of experience researching concrete components and concrete durability. Much of his research is based on advanced materials characterization methods including optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy (SEM), x-ray diffraction (XRD), and x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF). He has dedicated recent pursuits to move the industry toward policies that minimize the waste stream impacts of construction projects. He has also performed numerous studies detailing the effects de-icing chemicals have on concrete. These studies help us better understand and mitigate the seasonal damage to our highway infrastructure. Such issues are of critical importance when applied to bridges and elevated roads, which have undergone tremendous scrutiny since the I-35W bridge collapse in August 2007.

With the additional support of Dr. Sutter and his labs, AET has added even more value to their testing capabilities. AET's Saint Paul office recently completed a new building to operate state of the art asphalt and bituminous product testing. In October they completed the expansion of their internal construction materials testing labs, and they are currently constructing a new chemical laboratory addition that will house some of the most sophisticated analysis equipment outside of academic institutions. These capital improvements are accompanied by many strategic hires, including contracting Dr. Sutter as a Senior Consultant. In addition to his strong forensic background, Dr. Sutter holds numerous leadership positions within the industry including membership of ASTM Committees C01 (Cement) and C09 (Concrete) and Chairman of Subcommittee 9.24 (Supplementary Cementitious Materials). He is also a member of the American Concrete

Institute (ACI) and serves as Secretary of ACI Committee 232 on Fly Ash and as a member of Committees 130 (Sustainability), 201 (Durability), 221 (Aggregates), 239 (Ultra-high Performance Concrete) and also serves on the EAC (Educational Activities Committee). ■



Citing continued growth in its earthmoving operations, **RACHEL CONTRACTING** has announced the promotion of **DAVE LYSTY** to the position of Vice President – Earthwork Group Manager. Lyste’s previous position at Rachel was Renewable Energy Group Manager, a division he’s headed up since 2010. He says his promotion, a new position within the company, will allow Rachel to better meet both ongoing growth and recent management changes.

“A good portion of our business—probably 75-80%—is earthwork-related projects and our growth in that area has been impressive for the last several years,” he says. “That, coupled with Jerry Rachel’s recent decision to semi-retire, prompted these moves. Now, Kevin Klimmek will head up all activity in North Dakota, and I will oversee all other earthwork in this area and

throughout the upper Midwest.” Lyste joined Rachel in 2006, being named the then newly-formed company’s first project manager. Prior to that, he was a civil engineer in Fargo, ND, then later a project manager for a large local general contractor. As Rachel’s Renewable Energy Group Manager, he oversaw work on the Rolling Hills Wind Farm in Massena, Iowa, a 193-tower project—one of the largest in the country—with construction costs alone valued at more than \$20 million. He currently resides in Big Lake, Minn., with his wife and three children.

“I don’t think we’ve ever been better poised to build upon the successes we’ve already enjoyed,” says Lyste. “It’s no secret that we would like to expand our reach beyond the markets and geographic areas we currently serve. These recent changes will help us do that and, at the same time, bolster the solid reputation for which this company has become known. I look forward to the work ahead.”

Another recent earthwork project that Lyste was responsible for included a shoreline restoration project in Golden Valley, Minn., in which nearly 4,000 tons of boulders, riprap and sand were used to eliminate the risk of shoreline erosion which was threatening area residents’

properties. Despite work being done throughout the harsh Minnesota winter, the project was completed on time and 10% under budget. ■



**BLANSKI PETER KRONLAGE & ZOCH, P.A.** (BPKZ), a CPA and consulting firm located in Minneapolis, announces new president effective January 1, 2014.

**JOHN EDSON**, CPA/ABV/CFE, CMA, CVA has been elected president of BPKZ. Edson has been a shareholder for more than 25 years advising clients on accounting, auditing and tax services. He leads the business valuation and marketing departments and presents on topics of business growth, succession planning and business valuations.

Edson has received the Minnesota Society of CPAs (Society) Public Service Award for his work with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Distinguished Service Award for his involvement within the CPA profession. He has served on many boards over the past 20 years, including the Society, International Mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, TwinWest Chamber of Commerce and SPEDCO, showing his passion for leadership. ■

Would you like to see your name or your company’s name in the  
*Member To Member* section of *Construction Views*?

If so, please send all company press releases, announcements and updates to Corinna Hastings, Executive Director and Editor, at [info@mnconstruction.org](mailto:info@mnconstruction.org) or 4248 Park Glen Road, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

# NIOSH/OSHA RELEASE GUIDANCE ON NAIL GUN SAFETY

Dr. Cathy J. Rotunda, Writer-Editor

Nail guns are popular construction tools that boost productivity, especially on residential construction jobs. But this comes at a cost, because these power tools play a role in 37,000 injuries a year. General contractors now have a resource to help prevent nail gun injuries and to promote nail gun safety on their jobsites.

Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors, now available in Spanish (Seguridad con las pistolas de clavos), [1] was jointly prepared by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Nail Gun Safety was developed at the request of OSHA's Advisory Committee for Construction Safety and Health, which is made up of employers, labor, state, and public representatives. [2]

Most reported nail gun accidents injure the tendons, joints, nerves, and bones of the hands and fingers. But the leg, knee, thigh, foot, and toes receive a fair share of injuries. The more serious injuries—those involving the spinal cord, head, neck, eye, internal organs, and bones—have caused paralysis, blindness, brain damage, bone fractures, and death [1, pg. 1]

How do nail gun injuries happen? Research shows seven ways a nail gun can cause injury:

- Unintended nail discharge from double fire. [1, p.4]
- Unintended nail discharge from knocking the safety contact with the trigger squeezed. [1, p.4]
- Nail penetration through the lumber work piece. [1, p.4]
- Nail ricochet after striking a hard surface or metal feature. [1, p.5]
- Missing the work piece. [1, p.5]
- Awkward-position nailing. [1, p.5]
- Bypassing safety mechanisms. [1, p.5]

Nail gun safety starts with understanding nail gun trigger mechanisms. Sequential triggers are the safest type. They fire a nail only when the safety contact tip is first pushed into the work piece, followed by squeezing the trigger. Both the safety contact tip and trigger must be fully released before another nail can be fired.[1, pg. 2]

Contact triggers will fire a nail when either the safety contact tip or trigger is activated first. If the trigger is kept squeezed, then a nail will be fired each time the safety contact tip is pushed into the work piece. This is often called bump firing. [1, pg. 2]

Nail Gun Safety lists six practical steps that construction contractors can use to prevent nail gun injuries:

- (1) Use full sequential trigger nail guns. A full sequential trigger is always the safest trigger for the job, because it reduces the risk of unintentional nail discharge and double fires.
- (2) Provide training. Safety training involves much more than handing employees the manufacturer's tool manual. To effectively reduce the risk for nail gun injuries, contractors and their employees should understand these aspects of nail gun safety:
  - How the nail gun (and trigger) works.
  - How injuries occur.
  - What to do when the nail gun malfunctions.
  - What nail gun work procedures the company requires.
  - What PPE is required.
  - How to report an injury.
  - How to give first aid.

Hands-on training should include instructions on how to load the nail gun, run the air compressor, fire the nail gun, hold lumber during placement, spot ricochet-prone situations, perform awkward position work (toe-nailing and working on ladders), manage nail gun recoil, and avoid double fires. [1, pp. 6,7]

(3) Establish nail gun work procedures. Accidents can injure nail gun users, coworkers, and others nearby. Safe work procedures include those common to all construction tasks and those that address the particular risks of nail gun work.

(4) Provide personal protective equipment (PPE). Safety shoes, required by OSHA on residential construction sites, will help protect workers from nail gun injuries. For workers using nail guns, contractors should provide hard hats, high-impact eye protection, and hearing protection. [1, p. 9]

(5) Encourage reporting and discussion of injuries and close calls. Studies show that many nail gun injuries go unreported. Company policy should include open discussions of all nail gun injuries and close calls. These “teachable moments” help both the experienced worker and the novice, ensure workers get medical attention, identify unrecognized job site risks, and prevent injuries. [1, p. 9]

(6) Provide first aid and medical treatment. Even seemingly minor nail gun injuries can have less obvious complications,



such as embedded glue/plastic/clothing that can lead to infection, secondary injury from improper removal of a nail, or undetected bone fracture. Every injury, even those that seem minor, should receive immediate medical attention.

Nail guns are powerful, loud, and heavy, causing additional risks to workers. Contractors can provide a safe worksite by following industry standards, recommendations, and strategies designed to prevent these types of injuries.

- Air Pressure. OSHA's construction standard (29 CFR 1926.302(b)) on pneumatic power tools calls for using safety devices that keep the user from accidentally disconnecting the tool from the hose and require contact between the tool's muzzle and the work surface before the tool ejects the fastener. [1, pg. 10]
- Noise. Pneumatic nail guns produce short, loud noise peaks from driving the nail and from exhausting the air. Peak noise levels of nail guns range from 109 to 136 dBA. This is close to 140 dBA, the level known to instantly damage the ear. NIOSH recommends that workers use earplugs or muffs to protect against a 1-second burst of 130 dBA. Workers can also be injured by much lower levels of continuous noise. For instance, 15 minutes of 115 dBA has the same effect as 8 hours of 90 dBA. NIOSH recommends workers wear hearing protection if they are exposed to an average of 85 dBA over an 8-hour shift.[1, pg. 11]
- Musculoskeletal disorders. Holding an 8-pound nail gun for a long time in awkward hand/arm positions can cause soreness or tenderness in the fingers, wrist, or forearm tendons or muscles. Such overuse can lead to pain and the inability to work. Workers who have these types of musculoskeletal disorders should immediately seek medical attention. More information on work-related musculoskeletal disorders can be found on the NIOSH Web site. [1, pg. 11]

For copies of Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors contact NIOSH at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636), or TTY at 1-888-232-6348. Ask for DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2011-202. An electronic version (PDF) can be downloaded from the NIOSH Web site at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-202/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-202/). For the Spanish version, ask for DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2011-202 (SP2012) or download a copy from [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/2011-202\\_sp/](http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/2011-202_sp/).

Also see these NIOSH products:

- Straight Talk About Nail Gun Safety, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 2013-149, written for nail gun users, is intended to supplement an established safety training program.[3]
- Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/)
- Personal Protective Equipment [www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/)
- Ergonomics and musculoskeletal Disorders [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ergonomics/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ergonomics/)
- Construction [www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/)

## **Nail guns help workers complete jobs faster, but the high number of nail gun injuries show that when used improperly these power tools can make workplaces less safe [1, p. iv.]:**

- Nail gun injuries cause 37,000 emergency room visits each year. [1, pg. 1]
- 2 in 5 residential carpenter apprentices suffer a nail gun injury during their 4-year training—1 in 5 are injured twice and 1 in 10 are injured three or more times. [1, pg. iv, 1]
- More than half of these injuries are to the hands and fingers, where tendons, joints, nerves, and bones can be damaged. [1, pg. 1]
- Injuries have caused paralysis, blindness, brain damage, bone fractures, and death. [1, pg. 1]
- 1 in 10 nail gun injuries happen when coworkers are hit by projectile nails or they bump into a coworker using a nail gun. [1, pg. 6]
- Contact trigger nail guns pose twice the risk for injury over sequential trigger nail guns. [1, p. 6, iv]

# **We Can't Thank You Enough!**

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