



## Wrenches

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Wrenches—a very good name for this tool in that all too often it is the condition of a worker's back after mis-using a wrench. (Wrenched back, get it?) It is not only a back that can be injured, as we will see after our discussion.

### Guide for Discussion

#### Proper Care

- Inspect on a regular basis
- Replace sprung jaws, cages and faces
- Replace all bent handles
- Keep the jaws sharp
- Keep the wrench clean and free of grease and oil.

#### Proper Use

- Always use the proper size wrench for the job.
- Never use a shim to make a wrong size wrench fit a nut.
- Never use a piece of pipe on the handle to increase your leverage. (Slip hazard.)
- Don't use a wrench as a substitute for a hammer.
- Don't pound on a wrench to try to loosen a frozen bolt. Use penetrating oil.
- Always pull a wrench toward you—never push away. (Slip hazard.)
- See that the wrench jaws are sharp and can bite the nut.

#### Additional Discussion Notes:

Avoid possible falls – be sure you have firm footing.

Using a wrench on moving equipment? Never.

Remember: After you have several banged up knuckles or a busted finger because of improper use of a wrench, you have learned the hard way that a wrench is dangerous. Bottom line: If you use a wrench improperly, it can cause painful injuries.

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Weekly Safety Meeting. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact the Safety Director.